



Your local Museum needs YOU!  
(SEE PAGE 3)

# Bridgend & Porthcawl

# GEM



"Your ORIGINAL priceless weekly newspaper"

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH, 2013

**Health, Beauty & Fitness**  
Pages 16-18

**CARDIFF CITY FC**

**Congratulations on reaching the Premier League**

- special report in next week's GEM



**Brackla BUSINESS PROFILE**

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## SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR DRUG OFFENCES Woman (46) had 'meow meow' in a car when it was stopped

**POLICE** became suspicious when a woman driver, who was stopped for a routine check, appeared nervous.

The vehicle of 46-year-old Sian Casey was searched and inside, the officers found methadone with a street value of up to £860.

Casey, of Lower Church Street, Pontycymmer, a woman with no previous convictions, was jailed for six months, the sentence suspended for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

She was also ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work and to pay £250 costs.

She admitted being concerned with the supply of the drug and possessing it with intent to supply.

Said Recorder David Aubrey QC: "You are a

**CROWN COURT REPORT**  
by AJ SICLUNA

woman whom I accept had personal difficulties. You know perfectly well that resorting to controlled drugs will not solve problems.

"You were dealing for friends and that represents serious criminal offences."

Prosecutor John Warren said the offence came to light on September 26 at about 10.30am, when police officers were making routine checks of vehicles.

Casey was stopped because the police believed she didn't have any insurance.

She seemed very nervous and inside the car, police found 44 bags containing 24.4g

of the drug known as 'meow meow'.

On her mobile phone were text messages indicating she was involved in supplying. She told the police that friends asked her for the drug because they knew she had a habit.

She said she had bought it from a man in King Edward Street, Blaengarw for £150.

She said she had also been taking drugs for a few weeks "because of a personal problem."

She said she paid for it from her state benefits.

Meirion Davies, defending, said she committed the offences over a period of four days and they were at the bottom end of the scale.

"She turned to drugs because of family difficulties. It was one thing after another. Since her arrest, she has not touched the drugs."

## 'Please Sir... Can we have some more?'



PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN

## ATTEMPTED BURGLARY:

### Two men sought

**POLICE** in Bridgend are searching for two men, following an attempted burglary at a house in The Dell, Merthyr Mawr Road,

on Monday, April 8, at 1.20pm, when the men were disturbed by the occupier and made off towards the nearby tennis club.

Damage was caused to a window, but no entry was gained to the house and no property was stolen, a spokesperson said.

One of the men was described as white, aged in his mid 20s, 5ft 10ins to 6ft in height, with short black hair.

He had a mole on the left side of his face and was wearing grey jogging bottoms and a dark coloured, hooded top.

The other man was said to be 5ft 8ins-5ft 9ins in height, skinny build, with a pointy face, light brown or blonde hair, wearing a dark coloured, hooded top.

Anyone with information should contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800

555 111.

Police are also appealing for information following a burglary at a house being renovated in Oxford Street, Pontycymmer, overnight on April 8.

A builder arrived in the morning to find entry had been gained via a rear door, and various items of building equipment stolen.

A police spokesperson said: "Three men were then seen in a lane at the rear, around 50 metres from the property, one of them holding a blue drill box which had been stolen from inside."

"After being approached by the builder, they made off from the area."

"The stolen drill was later found discarded among rubbish bins in Oxford Street but various items remain outstanding which could be offered for sale."

"These include a grey and burgundy coloured chop saw, five hinges and mixer taps."

Contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

ABOVE:

The PAODS cast of Oliver! take a break from rehearsals for next week's show. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 9).

## House burgled at Pontycymmer

**POLICE** are appealing for information following a burglary in Lower Church Street, Pontycymmer, between 5pm on April 8 and 11am on April 10.

Among the items stolen were a computer, monitor and keyboard,

grey Lexmark printer, deep fat fryer, a George Forman-style grill, yellow and grey vacuum cleaner, and a men's grooming kit.

Contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or Crimestoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555 111.

Porthcawl Amateur Dramatic & Musical Society

*David Bart's*

# Oliver!

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Produced for the Porthcawl Amateur Dramatic & Musical Society by David Bart and David Williams. All proceeds go to the Porthcawl Amateur Dramatic & Musical Society.



Mavis Burt

## TRIBUTES PAID TO FORMER MAYORESS

Full story on page 3

## 'Foodbank faces a major rise in demand' – MP told

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, again visited Bridgend Foodbank to give a cheque donation – money received from completing questionnaires.

Afterwards, she commented: "I will keep donations coming to help support the Foodbank, which is supplying food to those in crisis in our community.

The demand for food vouchers from the care agencies has started to increase and the Foodbank anticipates that it is on the brink of a major increase in demand for food in the coming weeks.

It is desperately in need of donations of the following items: tinned fish/meat; tinned fruit rice pudding; jam; tea/coffee/milk UHT; sponge puddings, disposable nappies 6-12mths and dogfood."

Food vouchers are issued by care professionals such as health visitors, social workers, domestic violence charities, CAB, Job Centre Plus and the Wallich.

They will identify people in need and provide food vouchers which are then exchanged for three



ABOVE: Angela (trustee) Peter and Alicia (volunteers) with Madeleine Moon MP.

days' emergency food supplies. The Foodbank now has eight centres across the borough, where food can be collected. **These are:**

**Bridgend Centre:**  
79A Noltan St,  
Bridgend, CF31 3AA.

**Open Mondays,**  
**Tuesdays 10am – 2pm;**  
**Friday 11am – 2pm.**

**Cornelly Centre:**  
Cornelly Community  
Church, 5 Greenfield  
Terrace, Cornelly, CF33  
4LW. **Open Thursdays**  
**1pm – 3pm.**

**Bettws Centre:** Saint  
David's Church, Bettws  
Road, Bettws, CF32  
8UE.

**Open Wednesdays**  
**9am – 11am.**

**Porthcawl Centre:**  
Griffin Park Community  
Centre, Griffin Park,  
Porthcawl.

**Open Friday 10am –**  
**12 noon.**

**Pontycymmer Centre:**

**Tabernaacle Chapel,**  
Meadow St,  
Pontycymmer, CF32  
8HG. **Open Friday**  
**11am – 2pm.**

**Maesteg Centre:**  
Penuel Evangelical  
Church, Station St,  
Maesteg, CF34 9AL.

**Open Friday 11am –**  
**3pm.**

**Aberkenfig Centre:**  
The Storehouse,  
Aberkenfig Bible  
Church, Pandry Rd

**Aberkenfig, CF32 9PP.**  
**Open: Thursdays 10am –**  
**12 noon.**

**Caerau Centre:**  
Noddja Community  
Centre, Caerau Rd,  
Caerau, CF34 0PB. Tel.

**07816 534413 Open:**  
**Tuesdays 10am – 12**  
**noon.**

## A judge sums up 43 years

ON a warm day (at last) Chairman Dee Richardson of Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild greeted new president Ruth Lloyd and members with a special welcome back to Joyce Whiteing following a world cruise.

We had a report on the Federation AGM in Cardiff, which was attended by many members, and the monthly report from our twin Guild in Mansfield. Members were told of future events – a cinema visit to see 'Quartet', our very popular monthly luncheon, and outings to the Cotswolds and Dyffryn Park – now a National Trust venue.

Our excellent speaker was Judge John Prosser, retired after 43 years, with a wealth of stories told in a most entertaining way. He has recently written a book 'His Honour, My Honour' recounting his life in the law, the career he decided on at the age of 11.

The next meeting will be at All Saints Church Hall on May 8 at 2pm when the speaker will be Mr Clive Williams on 'A Taste of Music'.

**Dorothy Thomas**

## Ex-mayor to fight seat

A FORMER Mayor of Bridgend has been chosen by the Welsh Conservatives to contest the vacant seat at Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd on Bridgend County Borough Council on May 2.

Clare Lewis, who was town mayor in 2010, will be fighting for the seat, which is vacant following the death of Mal Francis.

Mrs Lewis, whose husband Mervyn is a local photographer and former councillor, has lived in Bridgend all her life.

For the past 30 years, the couple have resided at Llangewydd Court, where their two daughters were brought up.

## Learn how to bounce back...

**LEARN new skills on how to create a more positive outlook on life with the Big Lottery funded Siaradwn Ni – Let's Talk programmes at the Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme and Yellow Wales this May.**

Free of charge to anyone living and/or working in Bridgend or Neath Port Talbot county boroughs, the Siaradwn Ni programme is co-ordinated by Bridgend Association of

Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) and Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (NPT CVS), to encourage positive emotional health and wellbeing.

It will help to develop strategies and coping mechanisms to deal with difficult situations through coping with stress: resilience skills accredited training (16+) at the Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme in Bridgend town centre.

From May 8 – 29, every Wednesday from 10am – 1pm, this accredited training will show you how to 'bounce back' from things that life throws at us.

For further information or to book your place, call 01656 647891.

A spokeswoman said: "If you are aged between 16 – 25 and lacking confidence or direction, come along to our six week participation opportunities accredited programme starting May 28 from 10.30am – 3pm at Yellow Wales in Maesteg town centre.

"Meeting twice a week for six weeks, you will learn about the way your thoughts and beliefs shape your lives and what you are capable of achieving and becoming."

"With the emphasis on emotional and physical wellbeing, you will also receive practical advice and support to help you into training, education or employment."

For further information call 01656 737494.

## SHOUT FORUM

**KENFIG Hill SHOUT Forum for over 10s will meet at Theo's charity shop, Bridgend Street, Kenfig Hill, on April 30 between 2pm – 4pm.**

The non-political group is made up of people over 50 who wish to make a difference for their local community.

"If you would like to improve local services for older people in your community, please come along" a spokesperson said.

For more information telephone 01656 741203.

## SAINSBURY'S RED NOSE DAY RAISED £5,000

SAINSBURY'S Bridgend has announced a final fundraising total on Red Nose Day of £5,536 and Bridgend residents made a huge contribution, donating money to activities and purchasing merchandise.

Activities took place over the weekend of March 15 – 17, marking the 25th anniversary of Red Nose Day.

Sainsbury's has now raised over £74 million for Comic Relief since their partnership began in 1999.

Among the fundraising highlights at the Bridgend stores this year included 'foaming' of a manager by customers', exercise bikes in-store, chilli pizza competition, doughnut eating and other activities which were a roaring success and raised £5,536, and other activities which saw colleagues 'Do Something Funny for Money'.

Sainsbury's Bridgend

Store Manager Simon Lean said: "Many of our colleagues were 'reddy' to go one step further this year to mark the 25th anniversary of Red Nose Day.

"It's been a great experience over the last few weeks and we wouldn't have raised this much if it wasn't for the generous donations from our Bridgend customers."

Comic Relief supporter Lenny Henry said: "I'd like to thank all those people in Bridgend who gave us their support and donations. I've seen the difference their money can make and every single person who gave can know they've done something very special."

Sainsbury's supermarkets, including Bridgend customers were able to do their bit for the environment too

by recycling their Red Noses in-store until the end of March.

Sainsbury's and Comic Relief have partnered for a second year with leading UK carpet underlay manufacturer, Ball & Young, to recycle the PU Foam Red Noses.

The collected Noses will start a new life as part of Ball & Young's award-winning Cloud 9 range of underlays, used mainly in British homes.

Katherine How, Sainsbury's Comic Relief Partnership Manager, added: "It's good news for the environment and it's helping Comic Relief supporters make an even bigger lasting impact, so thank you to everyone who wore their Red Noses with pride and have now given them a new home."

## 'Low cost carriers are key to Cardiff Airport success'

SOME years ago when we lived in Somerset, about 12 miles from Bristol Airport, we regularly set off on our holidays from Cardiff Airport; however, now we live 12 miles from Cardiff Airport we always fly from Bristol.

Why? As with all holidaymakers, we have to get the best deal with air travel, particularly since being hit with a multitude of 'Green Taxes', which have increased fares.

If the new management at Cardiff Airport are to have any success, they need to get the low cost carriers on board, to provide regular flights to a good selection of

### READER'S VIEWPOINT

European destinations at competitive prices.

Looking at yesterday's (April 11) departure board from Bristol, there were a total of 73 flights; 37 were Easyjet (51 per cent) and 15 Ryanair (21 per cent).

Regional airports depend heavily on short haul, non-package, tourism, which is why Bristol is doing so well.

As with Cardiff, access roads to Bristol are not great, so this is not a huge problem; cheap travel is what we want, and hope to get from Cardiff Airport in the future.

(Name and address supplied).

### HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL APRIL 25)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

| DATE    | Time AM | Ht M | Time PM | Ht M |
|---------|---------|------|---------|------|
| 18 Thur |         |      | 12.09   | 7.4  |
| 19 Fri  | 00.36   | 7.5  | 13.22   | 7.2  |
| 20 Sat  | 01.59   | 7.2  | 14.53   | 7.3  |
| 21 Sun  | 03.23   | 7.5  | 16.06   | 7.7  |
| 22 Mon  | 04.24   | 8.1  | 16.57   | 8.3  |
| 23 Tues | 05.14   | 8.7  | 17.41   | 8.9  |
| 24 Wed  | 06.01   | 9.3  | 18.24   | 9.5  |
| 25 Thur | 06.44   | 9.7  | 19.05   | 9.9  |

While THE GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

### COYCHURCH WI NEWS

## Lorna's poetry is a hit with WI members

THE 34 members present were welcomed by president Sandra Davidson, and the business of the evening included information on the tickets available for the Festival of Music and Drama on May 10 in the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot.

Extra bursaries are available for courses at Denman College, and a coach has been booked for members attending the 95th anniversary garden party on June 25 in Bryngarw Park.

Following the business, members were entertained with poetry and rhyme by Lorna Pearson. She gave an outstanding performance and enthralled everyone with her wit, humour, accents, singing and acting out the characters in the rhymes.

The subject matter of

the poems was very diverse, from depicting the weather forecast, the seasons, to a machine on Llandudno Pier and much more.

Forthcoming events: May 14, skittles evening, Pontyclun Rugby Club; May 17, a walk in Groll Park, Neath; June 1, NFWI AGM, Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff; June 19, GFWI garden party, Margam Park; June 25, Coychurch 95th anniversary garden party, Bryngarw Park, Brynecethin, Bridgend; June 29, 90th anniversary walk, Ogmore-by-Sea.

For further information on events, contact Sandra Davidson on 01656 669232.

The next meeting will include a buffet with the resolutions and AGM on May 7 at 7.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome to join us.

JJ

# 'Lucky man' escapes jail after his latest offence

A THIEF who also handled stolen property and breached a suspended sentence, was described as a "lucky man" at Cardiff Crown Court, when he received a community order.

Steven Davies (29) of Tudor Estate, Caerau, Maesteg, had been convicted by Vale Magistrates of theft, failing to surrender to bail, driving without a licence and insurance, and handling stolen goods, and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was also in breach of a suspended sentence. He was made subject to a community order, ordered to carry out 120 hours unpaid work, to pay costs of £150 and was disqualified from driving for a year.

Recorder Simon Mills

## Report by AJ SICLUNA

told him: "You have been a very lucky man. You could have gone to prison."

Prosecutor John Warren said that on December 13, he stole toys from a Tesco store in Maesteg.

When security staff approached him, he said: "I don't know why I did it. I had money on me."

While on bail, he received a stolen mountain bike, which had initially been worth £400.

The police spotted the mountain bike in a car, which the defendant admitted driving without insurance or a licence.

He said he had altered the registration plates and had bought the bike for £50, not believing it was stolen.

The court heard he had convictions for 44

offences, including theft, possessing drugs, driving while disqualified and handling stolen goods.

The suspended sentence which he breached involved possessing drugs with intent to supply.

Mr Warren said the circumstances were that when Davies' home was searched, police found four bars of cannabis. Davies said he had been acting as a custodian.

Meirion Davies, representing him, said that there was a strong possibility that Davies was about to obtain a job as a nightwatchman.

"He is realistic and expects to receive custody. He has now kept out of trouble for some time."

The Recorder said that at first, he had decided to send him to prison for nine months: "But I am going to draw back from that."

# Calendar Girls raised £2,500 for LATCH children's charity



by KEITH E MORGAN

FOLLOWING their highly successful PAODS production of the play *Calendar Girls* at the Grand Pavilion in January, the Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society cast were able to present a cheque for £2,500 to Sandra Owen of the Emyr Owen branch of LATCH (Porthcawl and District).

The £2,500 donation will be used towards the cost of purchasing a caravan in Porthcawl, managed by

LATCH, for children who have been diagnosed with cancer, and will be used as a respite for children (and their families) from treatment at the Children's Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

The presentation took place during the rehearsals of PAODS' forthcoming production of *Oliver!* which is to be staged at the Grand Pavilion from April 25 - 27 at 7.30pm.

There will also be a matinee performance on the Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets can be obtained from the Box Office or from PAODS, on hotline 01656 788148.

With a big cast of youngsters, the *Oliver!* production will support the local charity 'Action for Children'.

Presentation by the cast of *Calendar Girls* of a cheque for £2,500 to LATCH. Left to right, back: Ruth Young; Laura Jones; Jackie Vaughan; Leanne Walker; Chris Jones. Front: Linda Lynham; Sandra Owen (LATCH representative); Ceri Millar; Kim Feeley; Jon Barnes.

# FAMILY'S TRIBUTE TO FORMER MAYORESS

THE family of former Bridgend Mayoreess, Mavis Burt, have issued this tribute:

It is with great regret that we announce that Mavis Burt, a former Mayoreess of the Borough of Ogwr, passed away peacefully in the early hours of Sunday morning, April 7, at Abergarw Manor Care Home.

Mavis served as the Lady Mayoreess, along with her beloved surviving husband, Bill, Mayor of Ogwr between 1986 and 1987.

Bill and Mavis were married for 68 years and were the proud parents of Angela and Adrian, along with grandchildren Nicola, Nigel, Alistair and Andrew, as well as six great-grandchildren.

Mavis was born in Sarn in 1924, and was educated at the old Bridgend Girls Grammar School. Her first job was as a secretary with the Glossops Tarmacking firm.

She joined Blue Line Transport Company as private secretary to the managing director and worked there for 40 years, before eventually retiring aged 70.

She was a fun-loving person and enjoyed going dancing with Bill, mainly at the South Wales Police Headquarters and then Llanharan Rugby Club.



MAVIS BURT

Her family were her priority and regularly hosted around 20 family members on Christmas Day. Her family still hold fond memories of those days.

Unfortunately, following a stroke in 2010 she was forced to leave the marital home in Haulfryn to enter Abergarw Manor Care Home.

The family are grateful to all the staff at Abergarw for making her final years as happy as possible, and for their devoted care.

The funeral takes place at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, April 22 at 3.15pm. AB



# Local museum gets ready for World War One centenary

Porthcawl and the Great War NEXT year, Porthcawl Museum will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One - the War to end all Wars!

Over the coming months, the museum will be collecting information and artefacts for the events and exhibitions that are planned to be held in connection with this commemoration.

**Your Museum Needs Your Help** P O R T H C A W L Museum welcomes any help that local residents can provide in the way of information or exhibits.

For instance, can anyone help identify the soldiers in the picture (ABOVE) of the Welch Regiment 25th Battalion; the Bantams.

Some of the soldiers have been identified as



indicated below:

Standing left to right: Ben Rowe...? ... Ashton ... Loveluck.

Sitting left to right: Percy Jones... Farrow ... Hendricks.

Are these names correct? Do you know the name of the unidentified soldiers? Do you know the Christian names of the others? Do you know

when the photograph was taken and where?

If you can answer any of these queries, please get in touch either by e-mail or telephone with Ceri or Paul Joseph at Porthcawl Museum, at porthcawlmuseum@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01656 788853.

KEITH E MORGAN

# Willy Wonka has a special treat for young chocoholics



ABOVE: A Charlie lookalike had a great time at the party.

RIGHT: Willy Wonka and friend share the original Charlie and the Chocolate Factory story.

A MORNING of sugary stories and chocolatey party games proved a popular Easter holiday treat for local youngsters in Bridgend.

Over 50 chocoholic children checked into Ella Riley's Toffee and Traditional Sweet Shop on Nolton Street, where the council's library and information service hosted a free Charlie and the Chocolate Factory-themed party, a spokesman reports.

The partygoers listened to the classic Charlie and the Chocolate Factory story, read by the book's original characters and won sweets from the shop by taking part in a fun 'book



aerobics' quiz.

Willy Wonka gave special golden tickets to each child at the party, which they could take to Bridgend Library to receive a free copy of Roald Dahl's classic if they borrowed three items.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "It's important that we make reading exciting for children and what better way than by

throwing a party in a sweet shop?"

"With so many children having had a great time at the party, hopefully a number of chocoholics are now also bookaholics!"

"There is no lower age limit on when children can become library members, so I'd encourage parents to sign their children up and share the magic of reading with their children for free."

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS

## Church history

**SAINT TYFODWG church, Glynogwr is one of the oldest in the area, being built sometime in the 14th century.**

Glynogwr at that time was only a hamlet, situated on the pilgrim route from Penrhys monastery to Ewenny Priory and thence to St David's cathedral in Pembrokeshire.

However, it is believed that a religious structure had been on the site since the 6th century.

The church was extensively re-built in the 1870s and 1890s, when most of the medieval features were demolished; now only the foundations, and some parts of the medieval stone structure in the tower and north and south walls, still exist.

Of interest is the Pilgrim stone, which is set into the floor of the chancel of the church and is only one of six to be found in Wales.

It is believed to be the stone cover of a 14th century chest tomb and carved into its surface in low relief is the representation of a male pilgrim.

It is identified as such by the scribe and staff that the pilgrim was carrying and by the symbols of a cockle

shell, cross keys and cross, indicating that he had already been on pilgrimages to Saint James Compostela, Rome, and Jerusalem.

The upper part of the effigy shows signs of having been re-carved at some time.

Tradition has it that a pilgrim on his way to or from Penrhys monastery died in the vicinity of the village and was buried in the churchyard.

For the carved effigy to show such detail, and the fact that it had been carved at all, would indicate that this person was known and possibly revered by the local inhabitants.

Historic items contained within the church building are a 14th century font, an Elizabethan silver chalice, three bells which were cast in 1720 and the case of a water organ dated 1857.

In the churchyard which surrounds the church, there are grave-stones with inscriptions that are still visible dating back to the 1680s and inside the church there are also a number of wall tablets of similar age.

Also buried in the churchyard is the body of Lewys Hopcyn (1708 - 1771) who has been described as the most eminent poet of his time.

He lived at Hendre

Ifan Goch farm, could compose poetry in Welsh or English and had a knowledge of French and Latin.

Besides being a farmer, he was also a Nonconformist preacher, brewer, carpenter and mason and a friend of William Edwards, who built the famous bridge at Pontypridd.

He had six children, two of whom, a son and daughter, were dwarfs. He exhibited his son around the country including London, and various aristocratic residences for money, even presenting him to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

*The boy, who was only 2 feet 7 inches tall was also shown to The Royal Society. Both dwarfs died young in 1754 and are buried in unknown graves near the eastern entrance to the churchyard.*

**Tribute concert**  
**MEMBERS of Pontycymer RFC are arranging a tribute concert on April 26, to recently retired chairman Peter Rees.**

Peter played soccer at school but joined Pontycymer rugby club in the early 1960s. He was soon considered good enough to play on the wing for the team.

In the early 1970s, Peter took over as chairman, until his recent

**NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS**  
*A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:*

*If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.*

*I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.*

**Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL**

**1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ**

**TEL: 01656 725399**

**email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk**



retirement after more than 40 years of faithful service.

Côr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw valley male choir) has willingly agreed to perform at this concert.

The choir has had close links with the rugby club since the clubhouse was first opened.

It has been given use of the club's concert hall for its rehearsals for two evenings a week for over 40 years, free of charge.

Pencoed Silver Band will also take part.

The choir rehearses on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm. New members welcome.

**Sandville charity**

A SPECIAL concert is being held tomorrow (April 19) from 7.30pm at the Ogmere Constituency Labour Party Club of 1960s rock-and-roll style music with Dave Riley. Tickets cost £5.00 and all money raised is donated to the Sandville charity. Everyone welcome.

**Maesteg town hall**

**TOMORROW evening (April 19) past and present members of Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society, will be performing in a celebration concert.**

The society, formed in 1943 to help cheer up the public during the war years, is this year celebrating 70 years of existence.

The concert starts at 7.15pm and the society deserves full public support.

**Côr Bro Ogwr**

THIS Choir of approximately 100 members will be performing in a concert at All Saints church,

**Rock 'n' roll dance for the Sandville**

THERE will be a charity rock 'n' roll dance, featuring Elvis tribute artist Dave Riley, in the O C L P C l u b, Bryntirion, on April 19, from 7.30pm until late.

All proceeds go to the Sandville Self-Help Centre.

Tickets are £5 (pay at the door).

**Porthcawl on Saturday evening, April 20 at 7.30pm.**

Under conductor Edward-Rhys Harry, it will be singing John Rutter's 'Mass of the Children', in which it will be supported by Baglan primary school choir, music will be provided by The British Sinfonietta.

The solo pieces will be sung by renowned artists Jessica Robinson and Steffan Jones and tickets can be obtained

by telephoning 01656 653326.

Côr Bro Ogwr rehearses at the Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm; new members are always welcome.

**Parc**

**volunteers**  
**PARC SLIP nature reserve, which has some of Wales's rarest and most precious wildlife, has had a**

number of volunteers clearing the paths, cutting back undergrowth and digging shallow waterways for the passage of the marine wildlife.

With the help of volunteers, members and building contractors, the wildlife trust is in the process of enlarging and providing additional facilities for the public, including a coffee shop.

They will be able to study wild flowers in the meadow opposite, which has recently been cleared and sown with flower seeds.

Today, while walking my dogs, I watched a pair of buzzards looking for prey, and a scarce Lapwing, which was carrying out aerobatic stunts over another meadow.

It is expected that the visitor centre will be open to the public on Monday May 27.

## Carers' centre

**BRIDGEND Carers' Centre at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479) is a welcoming venue for all.**

Macmillan cancer support will have its representative, Katie Thomas, at the centre on Thursday morning 9.30am to 12.30pm to advise carers of cancer patients, or of patients with Motor Neurone disease, Parkinson's and other chronic illnesses of the support they will be eligible for.

Tomorrow (Friday April 19) Paula is organising a trip to the National Botanical Gardens.

The coach will leave from Hope Chapel at 9.30am and will return at 3.45pm.

## Local cadets step up collections for RAFA



**ABOVE:**  
*Air Cadets have their collection buckets at the ready.*

## Choir sings in Cyprus to boost charities

*by Henry Bojdays in Dhekelia, Cyprus*

THE sounds of the Welsh Valleys drifted on the Cyprus breeze - as the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir cashed in, raising more than 400 Euros for the 6th Midnight Walk 2013 in aid of cancer charities.

Organised by Bernie Westall, the 40-strong choir performed to a packed audience at the Dhekelia Leisure Centre.

Most tickets had been sold before the event,

but a few lucky people managed to squeeze in at the last minute to enjoy a stunning evening by one of the best of Welsh male voice choirs.

Under the baton of musical director Shelley Thomas-Brown, ably assisted at the piano by Sandra Williams, the choristers went through a topical repertoire of traditional Welsh and modern music.

The choir also performed a charity concert at Bellapais Abbey for the Tulips/help those with Cancer charity.

**CADETS from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Royal Air Cadets attended a door collection at Tesco's Port Talbot in aid of the Royal Air Force Wings appeal.**

The cadets have been involved in collecting for RAFA for many years, and you will normally see them out on the Annual Wings Appeal weekend in September.

This year, they are stepping up their collections during the year, so if you see them please donate to this worthwhile cause.

The RAF Association does not receive any Government aid

The cadets from Kenfig Hill have been involved in collecting

for RAFA for many years.

The RAF Association provides aid welfare support to its members; this ranges from providing home visits and respite care breaks, to offering advice and, in some circumstances, financial assistance in times of difficulty.

The Royal Air Force family includes all serving and ex-serving personnel and their dependants.

To be eligible for welfare support, for both themselves and those who depend upon them, service personnel need to have served a minimum of one day in the RAF.

**LINDSAY THOMAS**  
*Secretary Civilian Committee*

## NEWS FROM PORTHCAWL BRIDGE CLUB

## Colin and Hazel are stuck in 'second' gear

**BRIDGE is primarily a game of skill, but luck does play a small part.**

One of our most experienced and long standing pairs currently seem to be stuck in second gear. For the past seven Saturdays, Colin and Hazel Heard have come

second. I'm sure it's (bad) luck that's kept them from the top spot.

Colin, a grand master, is the club's oldest full international, having represented Wales on numerous occasions during the 60s, 70s and 80s. In contrast, we have a new and relatively

inexperienced player; Eileen Mahoney, who has won, and come second in the past fortnight, with different partners, so she is obviously not lacking in versatility.

**Latest results:**

Saturday, March 30: First, Peter and Sandie Jenkins; second, Colin and Hazel Heard.

Monday, April 1: First, Roger Draper and Eileen Mahoney; second, Trish Saunders and Marian Evans.

Thursday, April 4: First, Diane Reynolds and Trish Saunders; second, Connie Dick and Pat Coghill.

Saturday, April 6: First, Terry Dolan and Kate Craven; second, Colin and Hazel Heard.

Monday, April 8: First, Terry Dolan and Roger Plant; second, Gary Williams and Tony Haworth.

Thursday, April 11: First, Terry Dolan and Roger Plant; second, Eileen Mahoney and Keith Davison.

The club meets three times a week: Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Rest Hotel 7pm-10.15pm. Visitors are welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656785794.

**Tony Haworth**

## Caryl's tales from the world of ballroom dancing

**PENCOED WT's April speaker was Caryl Thomas, who gave us a humorous and enlightening talk on ballroom dancing.**

She also brought several lovely ball gowns for us all to admire. It was another well-attended meeting and judging by the numbers, our committee has certainly picked a popular and well balanced programme for the year.

The May meeting is the AGM and resolutions meeting (in the past these have been two separate meetings). This year's resolution is 'Save our High Streets', a subject we would all

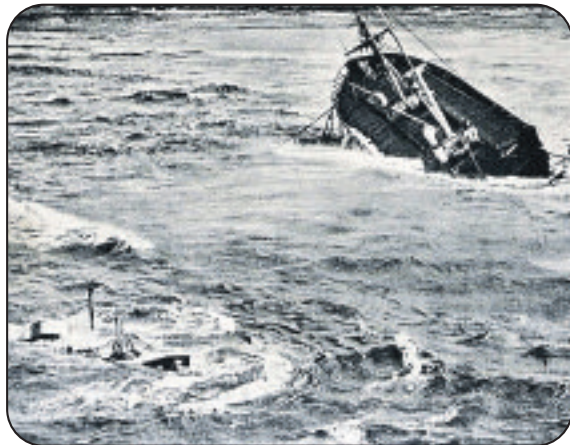
like to see sorted out if possible, but does seem to be linked with the fast growing electronic dominance of the world.

I admit to being a dinosaur - no internet, tablet, mobile phone, DVD, CD player, washing machine, and lacking several more modern things as well. Mind you, if we ever get a global power failure, I will manage perfectly well.

We meet in the Welfare Hall, Pencoed, on the second Tuesday of each month from 1.45pm to 4pm.

For more information, telephone Val on 01656 862181, or Pat on 01656 860289. Visitors are always welcome. **VW**

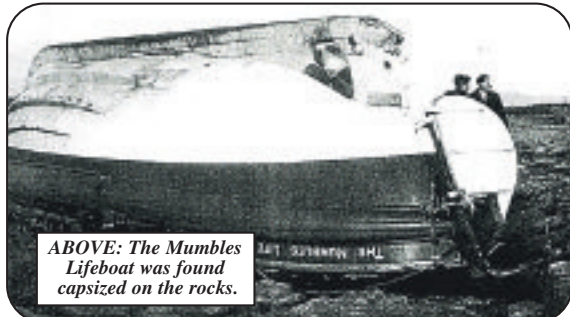
# 66 YEARS ON... Local man remembers Sker Rocks disaster



ABOVE: The Santampa (top right) is breaking up and wreckage (bottom left) is being swept away..



ABOVE: After the storm. The Santampa lies broken in two on Sker Point.



ABOVE: The Mumbles Lifeboat was found capsized on the rocks.



ABOVE: Mr John David, pictured alongside the Santampa memorial at Sker Point.

**NEXT WEEK, people in Porthcawl will be reminded once again about the worst sea disaster to strike the area this century.**

On April 23, 1947, the SS Santampa, an American 'Liberty Ship', was driven aground in a storm onto Sker Rocks.

The following morning, the Mumbles Lifeboat was launched in heavy seas to try to carry out a rescue after efforts by the Coastguard had failed to get a line aboard, due to the extreme weather conditions.

All rescue attempts failed, and tragically, the Mumbles Lifeboat Edward Prince of Wales, capsized, and the crew of eight men were all lost. The crew of the Santampa, 39 in number, also perished on that fateful day.

The GEM asked Malcolm Nugent to interview John David, who was there during the rescue attempt.

John, 17 at the time, was taken by his Coastguard father to try to help in the rescue attempt and he still has clear memories of the event.

"The events of that night remain very clear in my memory. The res-

cue company of HM Coastguard from Porthcawl tried to fire a line aboard from the shore with a breaches buoy attached, but the storm was too strong.

"The wind was directly onshore, so we were unable to get a line out to the ship. We felt helpless, watching the Santampa break up - and realising that the crew were dying.

"We knew that the Mumbles Lifeboat had been launched, but we didn't see it at all.

"The first we knew of its fate was when it was found upside down on Sker Point, not far from the wreck of the Santampa.

"We searched and searched for survivors but none were found, 47 lives were lost during that fateful event"

Malcolm Nugent added: "John's memories are still vivid and it is interesting to listen someone who was actually involved!"

## BRIDGE RESULTS

**THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:**

Wednesday, April 10: first Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage, second Alan Williams and Liam Sheridan, third Patrick and Tom Reddy.

Friday, April 12: first Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, joint second Bill Turner and Steve Burgoyne/ Helen Jordan and Judith Owen.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm to which all Bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm - 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

For further information contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372, or David Newman on 01656 649138.

DN

## Founder member of Porthcawl Lions celebrates birthday

LAST weekend, members of Porthcawl Lions club and friends from the bowling club joined the Tickner family to celebrate Don's 80th birthday at a most enjoyable evening at the Rest.

Don helped to start the Porthcawl branch of Lions Clubs International over 33 years ago. In all that time he has held various offices, including that of president, activities officer and membership officer (a position he still holds).

He has always been a very pro-active and hard working member and presently organises

and runs the book sales at the Seabank and Trecco and is in charge of the May Fayre on Monday May 6 at All Saints.

Don's contribution to Lionism was recognised when he was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship, which is the highest honour to be given to any Lion and an indication of the affection and respect all members feel toward him.

They thank him and Marilyn for a memorable evening and wish him many more active years in the club. **JOHN COSSON** (for Porthcawl Lions)



ABOVE: Don Tickner celebrates at his 80th birthday party.

## TALKING TIDY IN WENGLISH AT U3A!

"WELL done boyo," would summarise the enthusiastic response from local U3A members who attended the April meeting at the Rest, Porthcawl.

Alan Jones, retired former head of Pen-y-Bont Primary School, Bridgend, gave a fascinating talk, with audience participation, which for many recalled memories of their younger days.

His subject was 'Talking Tidy in Wenglish' first highlighted by John Edwards of Abercynon in 1985 and heard daily on BBC Radio Wales with Owen Money, Roy Noble and Rhod Gilbert.

Conflab, clecker-box, skewiff, and 'achavi' for disgusting, 'daps' for plimsolls, 'twp' for stupid, 'chwarae teg' for fair play, 'dust' for silliness, 'big butts' for close friends, 'bard' for being ill, 'bomper' for large, 'dab hand' for excellent, 'tamping' for mad and 'I'll see you now in a minute' were all discussed.

She was didoreth and under the doctor but a cwtch from her Bopa did wonders! Titch was choppy but the poor dab had bad screams from playing mob down the gwli.

A wonderful Wenglish lexicon resonated the colour and happiness of many a member's childhood.

His slides gave a pot-pot history of Welsh immigrants from the Celts' arrival 3,000 years ago, to the 150-year collision of Welsh and English during the industrial revolution which gave birth to Wenglish.

An amalgam of Welsh and English and a spoken not written language - it is rich in village or town characters and heard mainly with a south Wales valley dialect.

Many memories were stirred and shaken with a multitude of nick names from the past such as Dai Full Pelt was a good runner; Tommy Twp, not the brightest student; Blod Brass Knockor who daily polished her brass door knocker; Reg the Red and Dai Moscow,

who expounded the benefits of communism to all.

In 1977m NASA selected 55 languages to represent earth for their deep spacecraft Voyager, unfortunately English and Welsh were chosen ahead of Wenglish!

An excellent talk, full of humour, that made many pleased and proud of their former years. Please remember, U3A welcomes all who would like to attend their meetings.

**GARY VICTOR**

## Airport gets boost from Thomas Cook

by PHILIP IRWIN

**TRAVEL company Thomas Cook has given the Welsh Government good news - just weeks after it paid out £52 million to buy Cardiff Airport.**

The travel company is making more seats available on flights leaving Cardiff Airport this summer - potentially a total of 12,000 - after replacing the airline's A320 aircraft with a larger A321, and increasing the number of flights.

The A321 has 40 extra seats and a capacity of 220 and, coupled with more flights than last year - including twice as many holidays available to Tunisia - the airline says that there will be around 12,000 more seats on sale.

Jon Horne, the CEO at Cardiff Airport, said: "We are delighted to see Thomas Cook's response in offering more seats this summer, which is exactly what Welsh holiday makers have been

asking for. We are listening to the market and doing all we can to encourage airlines to take up the opportunity that exists to serve the people of Wales.

"This is just the beginning of what we hope will be an increasing choice of services for the people of Wales from their airport."

Rob Thompson, Thomas Cook Airline's director of planning, said:

"It's great news that we're able to offer holidaymakers in the region more seats than ever before with our larger aircraft, giving them more options for their summer break from Cardiff Airport."

Thomas Cook's Cardiff Queen's Street and Grand Arcade store manager, Annette Hammond, said: "We've seen unprecedented demand for local departures from Cardiff Airport - it's the first thing people ask for."

## Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Mr Frank Jenkins - The Old Vicarage, Dimbath Lane, Glynogwr, Blackmill - Conversion of and extension to former barn to dwelling.  
P Moore - 1 King Edward Street, Blaengarw - Single storey garage to rear.  
Mr E Crole - 36 Sanderling Way, Locks Common, Porthcawl - Convert existing annexe/triple garage to dwelling, two extensions to include garage space and balcony.  
Mrs D Radcliffe - Ty-Hir Farm, Llangwydd - Non load-bearing agricultural building for storage purposes.  
Mr Clive Thomas - Sunrise Bungalow, Brynnemyn - Adaption/roofing enclosed area within garden for use as a private garage.  
Mr Gavin Jones - 6 Moira Terrace, Ogmere Vale - Demolish existing flat roof extension and replace with two storey extension.  
Mr Paul Upton - 12 Elder Drive, Porthcawl - Bay window and porch to front, loft conversion with two dormers to front and one dormer to rear.  
Mr Steve Duffill - 13 Oaklands Road, Bridgend - Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and canopy to front.  
Mr John Lyndon Lewis - 16 Cwm Felin, Blackmill - Erect boundary wall to front of dwelling with maximum height of 0.9m.  
Bridgend Camping and Leisure Ltd - Kingsway Building, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Retrospective planning for change of use of unit from Class B1/B2/B8 to Class A1 (retail).  
G & T Stores - 1 and 2 Blandy Terrace, Ogmere Vale - Extension to rear of property for

retail (grocery) and storage purposes.

Mr A Howells - Plot 29, Porth y Castell, Coity - Proposed alteration to house type to include conservatory to rear.

Mr Stuart James - 1 Pant y Fedwen, Broadlands - Double and single storey extension; re-submission of P/12/831/FUL.

Mr T A Spencer - 5 Beech Grove, Danygraig, Porthcawl - Re-construct and re-roof existing conservatory and internal structural alteration.

Mr M Temel - Unit 3, Plott 11, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle - Change of use from Class A1 to use Class A3, hot food takeaway (pizza).

Mr Amin Diddy - 53 Mary Street, Porthcawl - Change of use from mobility shop and offices to residential dwelling.

## INTO THE UNKNOWN UNKNOWN...

# How the Dutch can teach us a thing or two about security

**YOU** never know when a crisis will happen – it is an unknown, unknown, as Donald Rumsfeld would say.

My crisis hit when I found my car was dead; it was a dead lump of metal. Ahead of me I saw hours of standing in the cold waiting for the AA, car towed to a garage, my without transport.

Fortunately, someone suggested I replace the nine-year-old battery in my car key. I did not even know my car key, which looks like a thick credit card, had a battery. The guess was right and a new battery saw my problem solved.

This was good preparation for my recent NATO meetings in The Hague. Planning for the unknown unknowns and running out of energy were key agenda issues.

The Hague was hosting the conference of the states parties to the chemical weapons convention. Chemical weapons come high on most people's lists of unknown unknowns.

For this reason, 188 countries signed a convention in 1997 on the use and destruction of chemical weapons. Eight countries have not signed the convention.

Egypt, Syria and Israel are a cause of tension in the Middle East and will not sign until each is confident the others have signed and will abide by the convention.

It is hoped that

## WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

**Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for The GEM.**



Angola, South Sudan, and Myanmar may join the convention in 2013. This leaves the unknown entity of North Korea on its own as a non signature to the convention.

Three countries have not met commitments to destroy weapons stockpiles, Russia, Libya and the US. Health and safety issues seem to be the problems. People like to moan about health and safety, but when it comes to the destruction of chemical weapons, this is serious business. In Libya it also involves the health and safety of the inspectors and their ability to travel in a still dangerous country to oversee destruction.

In contrast, the Dutch Parliament faces fewer security threats and has open access to the public. No crash barriers outside, no armed police everywhere, no screen for the public to sit behind. Life as it was before the IRA and AQ changed security concerns here.

The Dutch are, despite a small war between us during the reign of Charles II, one of our oldest allies.

Meetings looked at how NATO will address known knowns and unknown unknowns at a time of austerity.

The Netherlands has agreements with the UK Royal Navy to share amphibious forces and regularly sends ships to test their readiness for sea deployment.

The Dutch are developing capabilities in cyber, ballistic missile defence and in counter piracy. All of which are developing threat areas. They also take a great deal of interest in climate change.

Few see climate change as a defence issue, but it is an important one. Imagine the impact on everyday life if the energy supply to the UK failed. Energy is a national, strategic policy issue with far reaching foreign, economic and defence implications.

With CO<sub>2</sub> emissions growing, we have two ways of tackling the problem: one is to adapt our actions to reduce the adverse impact of climate change. The second is mitigation of the causes of climate change.

With 85 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> coming from the burning of fossil fuels, the research and development focus is on developments in the energy sector.

The future will see China and EU facing high costs for energy

supplies, while Russia and the US will have considerable lower costs as they are self sufficient in supply.

Asia is offering higher energy prices to purchase oil and gas and cornering greater parts of the markets in the Middle East and Africa. There are numerous security concerns over Europe becoming more import dependant on Russian oil and gas.

There are other defence implications for the shift. Will China take an increased interest in defending the Gulf region? At present, the security of supply is provided by the US and NATO. The UK has a number of mine hunters in the Gulf ensuring security of the oil and gas shipping lanes.

The energy costs of defence are growing. During the Second World War, a soldier used 1.67 gallons per day of oil. In Iraq it was estimated at 27 gallons per day.

There is so much to learn from the Dutch; their innovation in flood defence, their use of video gaming to train their armed forces, their innovations in cyber security, innovation in countering improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and their advanced radar systems.

Those who read this column on a regular basis will not be surprised to learn that my favourite development was one I have long seen the need for...

*The new Dutch frigate comes equipped with a lift... Wonderful people, the Dutch!*

## Three Peaks challenge in memory of a true friend JASON THANKS BILL, AND SAYS: 'He was so inspirational!'

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

**A brain tumour survivor is taking on the Three Peaks challenge – in memory of the late Bill Williams, who inspired him in his darkest moments.**

Bill, a former civil engineer, was featured in The GEM in October 2011, thanking people who were donating to the Welsh Blood Service.

He had been diagnosed with myeloma – cancer of the bone marrow, and needed transfusions of red cells and platelets. Sadly, he passed away at the University Hospital of Wales on July 13 last year with his family at his bedside.

However, in the two years before he died, Bill was a support to Jason Barber (34) who lives in the Romilly area of Barry.

Jason explained: "He was a smashing bloke – inspirational. I got to



**JASON BARBER.**

know him through his son Miles. In 2010, I was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Bill kept encouraging me. He told me to keep positive and not give up."

Jason had even started compiling a 'bucket list' of things to do before he died.

However, Bill's optimism proved well-founded because in November 2010 Jason had a successful operation to remove the tumour. He needed a second operation – Jason describes it as a 'washout' – to ensure he was free from infection.

Later this summer, he believes he will be given the all clear.

"I'm going to do the Three Peaks challenge in memory of Bill and will



**FLASHBACK: Bill Williams and Gisela Linton paid tribute to people who donate to the Welsh Blood Service in The GEM on October 13, 2011.**

be raising money for research into lymphoma and leukaemia."

Jason is part of a group of six people taking on the challenge over three days from April 22-24, climbing Scafell Pike in England, Ben Nevis in Scotland and Snowdon in Wales.

Ironically, the 'triple climb' was on his original bucket list, but instead of looking with dread at his situation, Jason is able to look to an exciting future with his wife Layla (35) and their children Charlie-Jane (15), Ethan (13),

Coby (7) and Adam (5). Bill Williams' partner Gisela Linton said she was thrilled that Jason wanted to pay tribute to him.

"It's wonderful that Jason has chosen to do this in his memory. He was a very special man."

"I hope people will do all they can to support Jason and the Three Peaks team."

If people would like to make a donation to Jason's fundraising, they should go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/up-the-peaks>

• Brabantia • Stellar • Horwood • Judge Vista • Meyer • Circulon • Anolon •

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## Athletic youth overcome rivals

**BRIDGEND Athletic Youth travelled west of Swansea for the return league fixture against Waunarlwydd Youth.**

Once again, the weather was determined to interfere with this fixture, as heavy rain and a strong westerly wind battered the ground from well before kick-off, to ensure an open running game was unlikely.

The game started as a forward-dominated affair, with Bridgend Athletic coming out on top in the early exchanges, using the rolling maul to excellent effect.

It was this tactic that led to the game's first try after seven minutes, when the Athletic pushed their opponents to within 20 metres of their try line.

Some short passing allowed centre Tom Jenkins to go over between the posts and the touch-line.

The try was converted in excellent fashion by Scott Govan, despite the windy conditions.

In fairness, the home team, as they had in the previous fixture, attempted to spread the ball at every opportunity, despite the

poor conditions – and put real pressure on the Athletic backs. The conditions prevented the Waunarlwydd backs from making consistent progress and also began to put the pressure back on their forwards.

This pressure told after 11 minutes when the Athletic were awarded a penalty some 40 metres out.

Despite the very difficult kicking conditions Scott Govan slotted the kick, to take the score to 10 – 0 to the Athletic.

To their credit, the whole Waunarlwydd 15 continued to throw the ball about and they were eventually rewarded with a try on 15 minutes which was converted.

However, Bridgend Athletic kept up the forward pressure in the set pieces and the loose and prevented their opponents from making any meaningful progress.

This again led to a penalty after some 20 minutes and Scott Govan calmly put the kick between the posts to take the score to 13 – 7 and keep the Athletic's noses in front.

The game continued in the same style and once again for-

ward pressure brought a third penalty opportunity and again Scott Govan put the ball between the posts.

The half time score was 16 – 9 to Athletic.

From the start of the second half, Waunarlwydd used the very strong wind well to pin the Athletic in their half for long periods, but the poor conditions and excellent Athletic defence prevented any real scoring opportunities and as the second half wore on it started to become clear that this was a game Bridgend Athletic were not going to give up.

Indeed, this proved to be the case and there were no further scores in the second half, making the full time score 16 – 7 to Bridgend Athletic.

This was another excellent win in poor conditions against a very competent and determined side and is yet another boost for the remainder of the league programme.

Whilst not a classic running rugby match, the kicking of Scott Govan in the conditions can only be described as excellent.

# DANCING SCHEME FOR THOSE WITH PARKINSON'S IN 3rd AGE



**ABOVE:**  
The 3rd age dancers at Awel Y Mor Community Centre, Porthcawl.

**A LOW-IMPACT dance programme which has been popular among local people with Parkinson's has been extended.**

Co-ordinated by Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development team, the 3rd age dance programme which encourages people over 50 to get moving, socialising and having fun, has been extended to run until June 5.

The programme, which takes place between 1 – 3pm every Wednesday at Awel Y Mor Community Centre, Porthcawl, has been a hit with a group of senior dance enthusiasts, which includes people with Parkinson's.

Funded by the council's Older People's Strategy, which aims to improve the wellbeing of older people through encouraging them to be mentally and physically active, the classes cover a range of low-impact dance styles that people of all abilities can enjoy. The programme's

professional dance tutors have experience of working with older people, including those with Parkinson's, and can support people with the condition during classes with stimulating, therapeutic movements specifically designed to aid its symptoms.

Carers are also invited to come along and watch or join in with the fun.

After the classes, the dancers can join in optional social gatherings where they can chat about the new steps they've learned and make new friends.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing and older people champion, said:

"Dancing is a great way for older people to keep active, have fun and make new friends.

"People with Parkinson's often have challenges with movement, so it's wonderful that we are able to help them deal with the symptoms through offering this programme."

## 'CANCER SLAM'

**THERE will be a 'Cancer Slam' aerobics workout at the Bridgend Recreation Centre on April 29, and May 6 and 13 between 8pm – 9pm.**

In support of this year's 'Race for Life' we are teaming up to deliver a pre-course activity free for all registered 'Race for Life' participants.

Taking part in a special 'Cancer Slam' aerobics session will enable you to maintain or improve your fitness prior to event day, as well as encouraging you to socialise with other participants to help improve the experience of event.

For further information call 0300 012 1223 (option 1). **VR**

# Bridgend hospital searches for four more consultants

**THE issue of NHS hospital services has been highlighted by the news that Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University health board is currently advertising for 50 hospital consultants.**

With concerns about Accident and Emergency services in the spotlight at the moment, it has been revealed that four of those consultants are needed at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

In response to a Freedom of Information request submitted by Welsh Conservative Regional AM Byron Davies, the board confirmed that it is now recruiting to fill 25 con-

sultant and 25 locum consultant posts.

The board also confirmed that it has been to Malaga in Spain to find suitable applicants. Staff have conducted interviews with candidates from as far afield as Portugal, Greece, Italy and Spain.

Fourteen candidates have been offered jobs as a result and these offers are being processed at the moment.

The posts are spread across all the major hospitals run by ABMU and arise in a number of specialities.

At the Princess of Wales in Bridgend, there are 13 vacancies. Four are in emergency medicine, four are in psychiatry and there are five vacant posts between

Bridgend and Swansea in radiology.

There could be other unfilled positions, but the board only classifies them as vacant when recruitment to fill them begins.

Mr Davies said that alarm bells were being rung right across Wales about the difficulties in filling hospital posts.

He said: "Our hospitals seem to find it hard to recruit enough doctors trained in the UK to fill their vacancies."

Mr Davies believes that the shortage is part of the reasoning behind the south Wales programme which is considering whether or not to close A&E, paediatrics and obstetric departments in some hospitals.

"I think that an all-Wales approach to the

problem is needed and I will be writing to Health Minister Mark Drakeford to find out what measures are being taken to tackle this problem.

"We need to find out if this is a national problem across the UK or if it's something that is mainly happening in Wales.

"If that is the case, then we need to take a long, hard look at how the Welsh NHS is being run and funded, and what image it is projecting to doctors across the rest of the UK.

"Apart from failing to attract in-comers, we also do not seem to be retaining the young doctors who train here in Wales for some reason, and that is a question of deep concern. We must get to the bottom of this."

A spokesperson for the ABMU Health Board said: "The shortage of doctors across the UK is a longstanding issue which has been well documented.

"As stated in our response to the Freedom of Information request, ABMU Health Board is doing everything that it can to recruit doctors and fill the vacancies."

**PHILIP IRWIN**

## U3A hears chaplain's story

**THE military theme of recent Cowbridge U3A meetings was continued last month.**

It was the story of a long career in the RAF and now it was the turn of the Royal Navy in the guise of the Reverend Michael Wishart, a former Navy chaplain.

The audience was treated to an extremely interesting history of British seafaring – from Sir Francis Drake, through Admiral Horatio Nelson, to the present day – and how the role of the ship's chaplain was intertwined throughout.

Rev Wishart's personal anecdotes, some humorous, other harrowing, added an insight to the story and gave it the human touch.

**SM/TB**



**ABOVE:** Lyn, shown with Nancy, will take part in the London Marathon this Sunday.

## Charity in rebranding exercise

**THE CF Trust is rebranding itself with the strapline 'Cystic Fibrosis why we are here...' in a new bid to get its message across to the public.**

If people want to get a flavour of the angle the charity is taking, they can go online to <https://www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/>.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited disease caused by a faulty gene. The gene controls the movement of salt and water in and out of cells, so the lungs and digestive system become clogged with mucus, making it hard for a sufferer to breathe and digest food.

One local group which is keen to see the new branding publicised is 'Team Running with Nancy', the fundraiser runners from Llantwit Major – and other areas!

Members recently took part in the Teifi 10m, along with little Nancy Thomas in her buggy again. They were sponsored by Wyn

Thomas Heating Ltd. A spokeswoman told The GEM: "It was a beautiful day and Lyn Thomas and Paul Jones completed the run in 77mins.

"Team Running with Nancy raised money for the trust.

"Nancy (Lyn's daughter) has cystic fibrosis which is a genetic life limiting condition affecting all major organs in the body and involves a lifetime of medication, hospital stays and organ transplants.

"She takes part in her buggy in races up to half marathon length and also took part in the Llanelli half marathon in March.

"If anyone would like to join Team Running with Nancy please contact us on [nowmrstthomas@btinternet.com](mailto:nowmrstthomas@btinternet.com)."

Lyn is running the London Marathon this weekend and would be grateful for any support. Online donations can be made at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RunWithNancy>.

## Sounds lit up spring

**ON April 6, I took in a performance by the Autumn Sounds choir at a packed Llantwit Hall in Llantwit Major.**

The choir, headed by Marianne Harman, came into being as an Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale Ageing Well Club activity for people 50 years and over.

As Age Concern's Ageing Well Club coordinator, I wanted to show my support for Autumn Sounds on their first semi-professional show; apart from which, I thought it would make for a pleasant evening of choral singing.

I was completely off the mark! The choir's performance was so much more, it was a show deserving a standing ovation.

The audience was treated to music and song buzzing with talent from start to finish.

I would like to congratulate Marianne Harman, the Autumn Sounds choir and guest artist for a wonderful evening of musical entertainment.

If anyone is looking for a choir with a difference, I can see Autumn Sounds becoming a popular choice.

If any of your readers enjoy singing and would like to be part of the Autumn Sounds choir, they should call me on 07584 346 002 for details.

**CHRIS COLLINS, Ageing Well Coordinator, Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.**

# Adrian joins team to cycle up a mountain – ON HAND BIKES!

**INTREPID** Adrian Disney will be joining a team of disabled riders this Saturday as they try to ride up a Welsh mountain – on hand bikes!

Adrian who teaches biology at Atlantic College, St Donat's, will join five other disabled riders for an attempt to reach the summit of Cadair Idris – and to do so they expect to have to keep pedalling for up to 10 hours!

A spokesman for the organisers said: "Riders will be using specially-designed mountain bikes that are pedalled by hand rather than foot.

"The bikes have especially low gears which will be essential on the steep and rocky upper slopes of the mountain, which is one of the tallest mountains in the Snowdonia Nature Reserve."

Adrian told The GEM that he had taken up hand cycling in 1999, 18 months after an accident that broke his back.

He said: "I was an outward bound instructor and had a climbing accident in 1997. I fell while setting ropes up for a group of kids to go climbing.

"I started hand-biking about 18 months after my accident. I started for fun, as a way to keep fit, and to get away from tarmac.

"When you are in a wheelchair you become limited to tarmac and places that are built up, and I've always been involved in outdoor activities, so it's a natural continuation.

"I often ride alone and will happily try out new routes. However, I always have to consider my exit strategies carefully in case of impassable obstacles!



Adrian Disney is pictured as he hand cycles up a steep gradient.

"For instance, I was riding on the Preseli mountains and I thought I had enough speed to get over a marshy bit, but I didn't get through it!

"I was in the middle of it, and the back wheel was up to its axle, and I didn't have enough strength to get wheel-spin. I had to get off and crawl through the mud, dragging the bike behind me!"

The profile of hand cycling was raised during the London 2012 Paralympics – particularly because the former Formula One driver, Alex Zanardi, was competing.

In that discipline, the hand cyclists lie flat, to decrease wind resistance, but the bikes that the team will use to climb Cadair Idris are different.

Adrian explained that on these bikes, the cyclists kneel and drive the cycle up the hill. On such a steep gradient, speed is not the most important thing, and the bikes are set in a very low gear to help the climb.

It is not an event for novices, and the team are all experienced hand cyclists. Adrian, for instance, completed a hand cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats in 2005.

Adrian said: "I have been training at weekends, doing three to four hour rides. I'm confident that I have the strength and stamina to get up the mountain.

"The only thing we are worried about is doing it in the allotted 10 hours."

A portion of the money raised will be donated to 'Walking With The Wounded' – a charity founded in 2010 to address the problems

faced by many wounded servicemen and women when trying to enter the civilian workplace.

Walking With The Wounded raises money to fund programmes and courses which equip former members of the Armed Forces with qualifications and skills required to find long-term civilian employment.

People can donate online via Just Giving:

<http://www.justgiving.com/teams/HandBikesatDawn> For more information on Walking with the Wounded, visit [www.org.uk](http://www.org.uk) or [facebook.com/SupportTheWalk](https://www.facebook.com/SupportTheWalk)

## Photographic society hands out annual awards

**THE Pyle and Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual Alan Thomas Memorial Trophy competition on April 11, at The Rest in Porthcawl.**

Every member could enter up to two monochrome prints in the competition and the winner was the person with the highest combined mark for both prints.

Rob Mitchell expertly judged the competition, and not only awarded the marks, but also provided a superb critique on each image.

First place went to Richard Craze with 'Leaves' and 'Je Suis Prest (I am Ready)'. Second place went to Dave Jones, with 'Not Today' and 'Roped in'. Third place went to Martyn Derbyshire with 'Cable Grass' and 'St Teilo's after dark'.

Congratulations to Richard on winning the competition, and a big thank you to all who participated, for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

GE



Richard Craze (right) receives his trophy.



'Je Suis Prest (I am Ready)'

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## CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

# Local man's life is 'ruined' after being blinded by attacker

**A WIDOWER has been blinded for life after an attacker jabbed him with a broken wine bottle, cutting one of his eyes in half.**

Alan Morris was already blind in his other eye because of acute glaucoma, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

He later said every aspect of his life had been ruined and that at the time he had wanted to die.

Anthony Sutton (23) of Trearne Road, Barry, pleaded guilty to a charge of wounding with intent and was jailed for nine years.

Judge Neil Bidder told him: "Mr Morris had walked up towards you in a non-threatening manner."

But, he said, Sutton then jabbed at him with a broken glass and the effect was to cut his eye-ball in half.

The effect on the victim, said the judge, had been profound: "It is not an understatement to say his life has been ruined."

He pointed out that text messages later indicated Sutton had been "glorifying in what he had done."

Prosecutor John Probert said Mr Morris returned to his home in Barry after a night shift at 6.30am on March 4.

He saw his son Lloyd engaged in an incident outside his home with Sutton.

He also noticed his car had been damaged, and he believed Sutton was responsible. He went outside and noticed a broken wine bottle. Sutton picked up the base of it and Mr Morris then tried to call the police.

Sutton ran off and Mr Morris followed him into Thomson Street.

At that point, Sutton jabbed the piece of broken bottle into his right eye.

"He believed Sutton had been out to maim

someone. He could not see, and was in extreme pain."

He could not bear doctors to touch the wound for some days.

Police investigated the incident and discovered text messages in which Sutton boasted that he had "gassed" Mr Morris in the face.

Another text message said: "I'll come down there and kill every one of those people."

When arrested, he said he had not intended to cause the terrible consequences.

The court heard that Mr Morris had no perception of light in the damaged eye, which was ruptured and will have to be removed.

"He is now totally

blind," said Mr Probert.

At the time, Mr Morris was in the process of getting over the death of his wife. He said he could do hardly anything for himself, and was scared to go outside, and had to have someone with him 24 hours a day.

He said he was worried about what would happen when Sutton came out of prison.

Ieuan Bennett, for Sutton, said: "He's still a young man, and his early years were difficult. He felt socially isolated and at the time of the attack was drinking and taking drugs."

"There was but one blow, with no follow up, after which he made off. The attack was out of character, and he does

not appear to be seriously dangerous. This case is something of a tragedy."

He said Sutton hoped something could have been done to save Mr Morris's sight, and did not appreciate at the time that he was already blind in one eye.

"There is genuine remorse. He is going to have to live with what he has done. He is going to spend a long time in prison."

"On the face of it, he is not a man of violence. On the night in question, he was completely out of control."

"Foolishly, he carried the piece of broken bottle in self-defence. I urge the court not to pass a crushing sentence."

## JAIL FOR MAN (19) AFTER A 'REVENGE ATTACK'

**ARMED with a length of PVC piping, a drinker in a Barry pub struck a man unconscious on the premises.**

At Cardiff Crown Court, Joseph Bowsher (19), of Birch Grove, Barry, was jailed for a total of three years, two months, after pleading guilty to a charge of wounding David Jones with intent, grievous bodily harm, and possessing an offensive weapon.

Prosecutor John Probert said that on Friday, November 23, there was an incident in a Wetherspoon pub on Broad Street, Barry.

Before that, the defendant had been assaulted by a man because of a relationship he had with a woman.

At one point, a group had approached Mr Bowsher, who had run off.

But Bowsher returned armed with the length of pipe.

Judge Neil Bidder pointed out that the

entire group should have been charged with a public order offence.

"This is a case of undercharging. They were intent on fighting," he said.

In the pub, Mr Jones was on his way to the lavatory when the defendant carried out his attack.

Bowsher struck him to the back of the head with great force and he lost consciousness.

Mr Jones was taken to the University Hospital of Wales, where two wounds were stitched and glued.

A doorman at the pub allowed Bowsher into the premises because he wanted to speak to his grandmother, and was then asked to leave.

The doorman said soon afterwards, Bowsher struck Mr Jones and he heard a "sickening thud".

Bowsher admitted going to the pub, and striking off with the pipe.

He was said to be in breach of a community order for battery and

obstructing a police constable.

The battery involved domestic violence in which he had bitten his partner, punched her to the face four or five times, pulled her hair, and pushed her down the stairs.

Mr Jones stated that he suffered headaches and a loss of confidence.

Bowsher's counsel, Kevin Seal, said testimonials spoke well of him and he had a positive side.

"He is a Jekyll and Hyde kind of character, and when using alcohol and drugs, changes."

He said the gang involved had been reported by Bowsher's father to the police, and there had been threats in the past.

"But on the night in question, matters escalated, and the gang followed him, making him terrified."

"He had taken drink and drugs for Dutch courage, and he intended to use the fight to scare them off. He has recently been trying to become mature, and he still has a relationship with the woman he assaulted."

The judge said that others had assaulted Bowsher before the attack, which was a disgraceful incident when he was punched to the head by the gang.

All the men involved, he said, deserved to be prosecuted.

"You were being dogged by this group, and it is significant mitigation, but does not really excuse what you then did."

Judge Bidder added: "You carried a revenge attack, provoked by the bad behaviour of the gang." He was ordered on release to pay £120 victim surcharge

# Support for crossing on dual carriageway

**SHADOW Welsh Transport Minister Byron Davies says he will back calls to provide a pedestrian crossing facility on a busy dual carriageway.**

Mr Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, met Pen-y-fai councillor Altaf Hussein, who had invited him to the village to hear about the problems being caused to residents wishing to cross the main Bridgend to Tondur Road.

Mr Hussein explained that many villagers from the lower end of Pen-y-fai walk to the Pen-y-fai service station, where there is a shop.

This is on the other side of the busy main road and there is no pedestrian phase within the traffic lights.

"People are having to take their chances as they cross the road here," he said. "Traffic travels at speed from the dual carriageway towards this junction."

"I am launching a campaign to get the lights changed so that pedestrians can cross. It would be a relatively small cost and could end up saving a life."

He added that people wishing to walk into



Byron Davies AM and Altaf Hussein at Pen-y-Fai/

Bridgend along Tondur Road also need to cross, because the pavement is on the far side of the road from the village.

Mr Davies will be writing to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to ask the Highways Department to investigate.

"They should be able to rephase the lights quite easily to give people enough time to walk across in safety."

"This seems to me to be a perfectly reasonable request."

Mr Davies went on: "I see that a safe route to the

new village primary school is being installed, which I know is something that Coun Hussein has campaigned for. The council has also installed traffic calming to stop cars speeding through the village, which I welcome."

"It's nice to see that the council has listened to local people."

Other issues raised by Altaf Hussein include cuts to buses at weekends.

Mr Davies is to contact First Cymru to see if some of the buses which now travel along the

main road past Glanrhyd Hospital could be diverted via the village.

He concluded: "I know that the Welsh Labour Government has cut subsidies to bus companies, which means that some routes have been dropped."

The watchword for the Welsh Government has been social inclusion, but this move is excluding people who have no cars from enjoying the full range of shopping, leisure and other activities that others can enjoy. They should think again."

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# PARALYMPIAN ANTHONY RECEIVES MBE HONOUR AT WINDSOR CASTLE

**DISABILITY  
Sport Wales,  
National  
Performance  
Manager, Anthony  
Hughes has  
received an MBE  
from the Queen for  
services to sport, at  
a ceremony in  
Windsor Castle last  
week.**

The Penarth-based former paralympian has achieved just about everything there is to achieve in a lifetime's commitment to sport. Having joined Disability Sport Wales as National Performance Manager in 1999, he has played a significant role in developing a system that has seen the number of Welsh paralympians grow from 17 in Sydney 2000 to 38 by London 2012.

Recognised as an outstanding athletics coach in his own right, he has steered many athletes to European and World Championship success, while at the London 2012 Paralympics Games his athletes excelled, with both Aled Sion Davies and Josie Pearson winning gold.

Anthony commented: "When I started my job at Disability Sport

Wales, I never imagined that one of my career highlights would be receiving an MBE from the Queen.

"Today was such a humbling experience. I am so grateful for all the support I have received over the years that has enabled me to do my job."

Gareth John, chairman, Disability Sport Wales said: "We are absolutely delighted for Anthony and hope that he and his family had a very special day at Windsor Castle."

"The MBE is so richly deserved, having dedicated much of his life to disability and paralympic sport. In a long and distinguished career, he has not only excelled as an elite athlete and coach, but he has also been personally responsible for the development of so many talented paralympians who have gone on to represent Wales and Great Britain with great distinction."

"His contribution to Welsh sport has been hugely significant and it is right and proper that he is being honoured."



Anthony Hughes with his sons Daniel and Thomas outside Windsor Castle.

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## Ashgrove School pupils cleaning up the beaches!



A DEDICATED group of pupils at Ashgrove School have been carrying out beach cleans at local beaches, as part of the Coastal Connections project which takes learning and development outside to beach communities.

So far, pupils have collected around 100 garden recycling waste bags during their visits.

Coastal Connections works in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy, Surfers against Sewage, Porthcawl Surf, Puravida boardriders and The Marine Conversation Society.

It has been successfully run at Ashgrove School since the summer of 2011.

Pupils have the opportunity to learn and explore in an alternative environment; they develop confidence, self esteem, self-regulation and self-motivation are improved and they have a

better understanding of the importance of health and well-being.

This July, a team of colleagues at Ashgrove School are taking on a tough challenge to raise funds for the project – they are planning to stand up paddleboard from the Mumbles in Swansea to the Penarth pier during one very busy day.

If you would like to find out more about the challenge, how you could get involved or how the teams training is going, visit the website 'supchallengewales.wordpress.com'.

They are also on Twitter and Facebook. If you would like to donate, you can contact them at [justgiving.com/welshSUPchallenge](http://justgiving.com/welshSUPchallenge).

**KERRY BAKER,**  
Project leader  
Coastal Connections and teacher  
at Ashgrove School.



## MIND in the Vale's vital work praised

THE vital community work carried out by Mind in the Vale has won praise from the Conservative opposition leader in the National Assembly.

Regional AM Andrew RT Davies said, after meeting executive manager, Caroline Chapman, at Barry: "It is clear that mental health is still a taboo subject and that there is a lot of work to be done to address that."

"But it was uplifting to see what a positive difference the team make in showing that mental health issues needn't be a barrier to

living fulfilling lives."

The services offered by Mind in the Vale are provided at three locations in the Vale – in Barry, Penarth and in Llantwit, covering the Western Vale.

"Mind in the Vale rely heavily on the loyalty and support of their team of volunteers, of whom there were 92 last year – carrying out around 25,000 hours of work."

"They offer a vital community service to the area and the holistic support they offer is remarkable, particularly when you consider that they have just two full-time members of staff," said Mr Davies.



ABOVE: Caroline, Barney and Theresa with Andrew RT Davies, in the visitor garden at Mind in the Vale's Barry office.

## Scheme warns of road dangers

A ROAD safety initiative to warn motorcyclists about dangers on the road is being given a kick-start ahead of the summer.

BikeSafe is run by South Wales Police in partnership with local authorities and the Welsh Government, and is backed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

The initiative involves a two-day course where riders take part in classroom-based activities followed by a practical session, where qualified assessors give feedback on their riding style.

The BikeSafe programme has been released and bookings can be made online at [www.bikesafe.co.uk](http://www.bikesafe.co.uk).

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# The Vale Council reviews its school counselling service

**A REPORT has revealed that more than 300 young people have used the Vale council's school counselling service in the last year.**

The council has recently invited tenders from organisations to run the service, which

has been run by Barnardo's Cymru since 2008.

It was in 2008 that the Vale Council received a Welsh Government grant for a school's counselling service, and the £42,000 funded a service provided by Barnardos.

In a recent report to the Vale Council cabi-

**by PHILIP IRWIN**

net, it was revealed that the funding had risen to £192,000 in 2012/13.

Cabinet members were told that there had been an increase each year to grow the service slowly and ensure all secondary and special schools received a service.

All eight Vale secondary schools receive a service one or two days a week.

Additional days are allocated for special schools, out-of-school services, and some primary schools.

The Vale Council gets its funding as part of the Revenue Support Grant, and this funding now has to include provision for young people up to 19 years old.

A management board oversees the counselling service, and the board includes members of the education service, head teachers and members of the local health board.

The cabinet members were told that a procurement exercise has now been conducted and a preferred provider has been identified.

The service will continue to report to Welsh Government as required and will be part of any

Estyn inspection that takes place of the local authority or individual schools.

In a review of recent years, it was stated that more than 300 young people have used the service in the last year, making an average of five visits each.

The main reasons for referral were family, anger and bullying. Issues highlighted during counselling included family, self worth and anger.

The cabinet was told that 'YP-Core', a psychological tool used to measure stress levels of young people, showed a significant 10-point reduction in pre and post counselling intervention.

The Learning and Skills Department is aiming to procure a service from May 2013 for £185,000 per year for three years, until May 2016, and this has been awarded to Action for Children

## NHS trusts draw up plans to tackle measles outbreak

**by PHILIP IRWIN**

**HOSPITAL policy to tackle the Swansea measles outbreak in Bridgend county borough and the Vale seems to be reflecting the rate of uptake of the MMR vaccine over the last 12 years.**

The number of cases has now passed the 700 mark, and more than 1,700 MMR vaccinations were given at the four drop-in clinics in Morriston, Singleton, Neath Port Talbot and the Princess of Wales hospitals last Saturday.

However, the Cardiff and Vale local Health Board is targeting areas where it is known that there was a low uptake. This includes two Cardiff secondary schools, but none in the Vale or Bridgend.

In the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg (ABM) area, people began queuing as early as 8.30am last Saturday for clinics which were scheduled to run from 10am-4pm. As a result, many of the clinics opened early.

Dr Sara Hayes, ABM director of public health said: "We are very pleased so many people turned up and I'd like to thank everyone for their patience while they waited to be seen."

"I cannot stress enough how important it is for people to have their MMR. The number of cases and people being hospitalised with measles is continuing to rise and we can only stop it by protecting those we can against it."

"Measles is a horrible disease and can have

long term effects such as deafness and blindness. This is why we are offering first vaccinations early to babies aged six months to one year.

"It's also very important for older children and adults born after 1970 to make sure they have had two MMRs."

"We will be running more MMR drop-in clinics next weekend, and details will be released as soon as arrangements are confirmed."

**VALE VACCINATIONS**

The emphasis in Cardiff and the Vale is different.

Dr Sharon Hopkins, director for public health for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "In outbreak areas such as Swansea, clinics have been advised to give anyone the vaccination who needs one."

"However, in non-outbreak areas such as Cardiff and the Vale, we are asking people to make sure that they attend their scheduled booster vaccination with their GP when it is due."

"Clinics held last Saturday were aimed at those who have had no vaccination or only one jab - for example, a teenager who had the first injection as a child but hasn't had a booster since."

"It is this group, the Wakefield generation, that we are particularly concerned about given their highly social nature, which means if they become infected they can quickly and

easily pass it to friends and siblings."

"That is why we are now focussing our energies on making sure as many people in this age group are protected."

"We are targeting two high schools in Cardiff that we know have a low take up of the MMR vaccine. We are also looking at what other avenues we can take to protect the public."

"Measles is easily contracted and easily spread and can have serious consequences. So I would urge parents to ensure their children are properly protected and if not, to take up an offer of vaccination through their school or to contact their GP."

Mark Drakeford AM, the Minister for Health and Social Services, said: "It is estimated that around 5,000 children still remain at risk from measles in the Swansea area alone."

"I anticipate therefore that the numbers of cases will continue to rise over the coming weeks until the levels of MMR vaccination coverage reach levels where the continuing circulation of measles in the community can be interrupted."

"It is important for us all to remember measles is not a trivial illness. In a minority of cases, it can lead to serious complications and it can be fatal."

"Regrettably, the more the disease continues to spread, the more likely these outcomes become. It is vital we build on the progress made so far and bring the outbreak under control."

## AM sees Vale People First's new premises



VALE People First has moved to new premises on Broad Street, Barry and was visited by trustee and Vale AM, Jane Hutt, pictured here with Vale People First members and coordinator Liz Davidson.

## SHELTER CYMRU GETS £2,000 FUNDING BOOST

**SHELTER Cymru has received a £2,000 donation from Newydd, a housing association with properties in the Vale.**

A spokeswoman said that Shelter Cymru has been hit by a substantial cut in the legal aid funding that supports its specialist advice services.

"This comes at a time when welfare changes mean that more people than ever need advice. The cumulative impact of the welfare changes by the UK Government has meant that social housing tenants will need to move home or accept a cut in benefits."

"With offices all over Wales, Shelter Cymru prevents people from

losing their homes by offering free, confidential and independent advice, advocacy and legal representation.

"The £2,000 donation from Newydd will go directly to support Shelter Cymru's housing advice services at this difficult time for tenants."

Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd, commented: "At a time where welfare reform is causing major upheaval in the housing sector, we feel it is essential to support Shelter Cymru as much as we can."

"The welfare of our tenants must come first and we will do as much as possible to support them through these major benefit changes."

John Puzey, director at Shelter Cymru added: "We greatly appreciate this very kind donation. The coming months are going to be very tough for a lot of people so we welcome Newydd's recognition of the importance of independent advice services in helping their tenants to manage their situation."

## School hosts open afternoon

**PARENTS in the Vale are invited to attend an open afternoon at Kings Monkton School in West Grove, Cardiff, on Friday, April 26, 2pm-5pm.**

Parents will be able to view the school's facilities, speak to staff, and find out plans for the school's future from its new owner, Heathfield Independent Schools.

Opened in 1870, Kings Monkton School is one of the oldest co-educational independent schools in South Wales, and caters for children aged two to 16, of all abilities.

The school was bought earlier this year by local businessman Andrew McCarthy, who will be using his wealth of experience to grow and improve the school.

Julia Horton, acting principal at Kings Monkton School, said:

"Kings Monkton has a fantastic reputation and heritage, yet it remains one of the most affordable independent schools in the Cardiff area."

"We develop well-rounded children, both academically and socially, valuing academic outcomes as much as endeavour and we recently gained fantastic modular results, with some students scooping straight A and A\* grades at this mid-year stage."

"Despite being based in the heart of our capital city, we pride ourselves on the fact that we maintain a village school ethos, providing a friendly and caring environment to our pupils, parents and staff."

Parents interested in attending the open day can call 02920 482854 or email info@kingsmonkton.org.uk.

## Red kites are set to be a common sight in the Vale

**LAST week's letter from GEM reader Stuart Yendle, reporting a sighting of a red kite, has led a number of people to get in touch with similar sightings.**

The RSPB has also confirmed that sightings are likely to get more frequent from now on, as the birds move south from their mid-Wales heartland.

Lllysworney resident Mr Blake reported two sightings. However, his were 25 years apart!

He told The GEM: "I saw one two weeks ago at Lllysworney, and it has been 25 years since the previous sighting, which was in the same area."

GEM reader Rosemary Hocking said: "Last Thursday, April 11, we were on the A48 when we spotted a lone red kite flying over fields near Pentre Meyrick."

The Moody-Jones family of Peterston-super-Ely wrote to say that they had seen a red kite near their home in January, and also saw one last year near Bonvilston.

Dana Thomas from RSPB Cymru said: "Red kites have made a remarkable recovery from near extinction in the UK in the early 1900s, to become a familiar and well-loved species in several parts of the UK."

"The Welsh popula-



How to spot a red kite. (Image courtesy of RSPB).

tion is now widespread with over 1,000 pairs. The species is also moving south from its stronghold of mid Wales and is now starting to nest in the north of Glamorgan.

These sightings in the Vale are not surprising, and is a wonderful part of the red kites' success story so far."

## Young Farmers set up a Tug of War team

**AFTER a successful year competing for Glamorgan YFC last year, Young Farmers have now decided to start a Glamorgan Tug of War team.**

The Tug of War team will aim to compete throughout the summer months, in local events and in any Welsh Tug of War competitions.

A spokeswoman said: "We would like to invite any members (both male and female) to join us in our meetings and training sessions. Anyone

interested should contact Kate Thomas, Zoe Llewellyn or Gwyn Johnson.

"Also, we would also like to invite members to a race night at Llanharan Rugby Club on April 27. Tickets are £5 each and this a ticket only event."

"There will be six races, plus a champion hurdle race, as well as betting. Some horses may be bought before the day for £5 and a £5 jockey fee. Tickets are available from Kate Thomas or Zoe Llewellyn (01443 225200)."

**Glamorgan Tug of War Team.**

**Visit 'GEM Sports Extra' at [www.barry-today.co.uk](http://www.barry-today.co.uk) to read sporting news from across the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs!**

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# FAMILIES COLLECT AWARDS FROM THE CADOXTON YOUTH PROJECT



Celebration time at the Cadoxton Youth Project.

AT the end of eight days' free family sports activities at Cadoxton Sports Hall, hosted by Cadoxton Youth Project, trophies were handed out.

Two representatives from Dish out Dosh, James and Sam, presented the trophies to the families: Ling Ling Tang won in drama and basketball and collected the award on behalf of the family.

Ling Ling showed great dexterity and a willingness to help in the community.

Owen Hanwood received trophies for his family at hockey and football, showing great imagination in making up new games and being very energetic and enthusiastic.

Francis and Smyler Tucker and Tyler Hayman had the honour of receiving the awards for their family in

football and hockey, and all three showed a competitive edge and a willingness to win.

Nicky Cushen brought along his Olympic torch from the 2012 London Games to inspire everyone. Thanks go to Nicky Limbrick, Nicky Cushen, Rita Limbrick and the other volunteers for their hard work.

Many families in the community took part and free food bags were handed out in the community over the eight days. For more information on the Cadoxton Youth Project and food bags, contact Rita on 01446 621829.

## Go the 'Whole Hog' for Marie Curie!

THE 'ultimate 10K cross-country adventure run' will take place on Saturday, May 11, and Marie Curie Cancer Care is calling on local teams to take up the challenge in the Brecon Beacons.

Claire Notman, regional events fundraiser, said: "The Whole Hog is an adventure race for individuals or teams of three where you run across varied terrain taking on military fitness style obstacles.

"This is not a race, although you will get competitive within your own teams and against others – all to be crowned the winner of The Whole Hog Wales!" "From climbing up banks, wading through rivers and scrambling through the mud, this will test your abilities as an individual and as a team.

"But what will get you through, other than the tasty Hog Roast at the end, is knowing that you are raising funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care nurses and helping support their work, allowing them to provide care for more terminally ill patients in their own home – or in your local Marie Curie Hospice at Penarth."

"Last year, we held

the event for the first time and we filled it, so this year we've moved to a new venue, still within the Brecon Beacons National Park, with a brand new course, with fantastic obstacles and where there will be plenty of mud, sweat and tears!" "Sign up today at [www.mariecurie.org.uk/wholehogwales](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/wholehogwales), call 0845 052 4184 or email [waleswestevents@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:waleswestevents@mariecurie.org.uk)."

## Olympian helps a tennis club mark centenary

A double Olympic champion is returning to his former tennis club, to mark its centenary celebrations.

Barry Tennis Club celebrates its 100 year anniversary with a special family open day from 2pm on Saturday, April 27.

The commemorations mark a nostalgic trip for guest of honour David Davies, who, before becoming a swimming Olympic medallist in Athens and Beijing, was a promising young tennis ace at the club.

Club members will be displaying period tennis costume, while visitors can try their hand at 21st century tennis by competing against a tennis ball machine; and also checking if they can serve a tennis ball as fast as Wimbledon champion Roger Federer's 135mph serve – with the aid of a special radar gun.

For youngsters, mini tennis tournaments with the club's junior coaches are being organised for 8 years and under, at 2.30pm and for 9-14 years at 3.30pm.

For the season ahead, the club is offering a new range of tennis activities to cater for all levels and interests.

The club has a ladies' and men's team competing in the Courtstall Summer Doubles Leagues, as well as two junior teams in the 14-

**'CALLING THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE RUSTY!'**

and-under league, and eight-and-under mixed league. Veterans tennis is available most weekday mornings for those who are retired or semi retired.

Barry Tennis Club has in recent years enjoyed national success, with its men's team picking up the national Wales' title and other teams winning regional prizes – as well as nurturing some of Wales' top young talent, and encouraging more people to have a go at tennis.

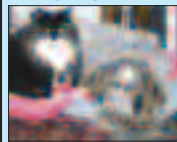
Members can use the club's pavilion with lounge, kitchen, changing rooms, toilets, and showers. It offers good viewing facilities of activities on courts.

Members have free use of tennis balls. There is also ample free car parking.

Commenting on the centenary season launch, club chairman, Harry Emery, said: "We are a club with a great tradition – and a great future."

"This is a wonderful landmark to celebrate and we welcome new members – the good, the bad, and the rusty. Ccme and join us in the celebrations!" AG

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## Cowbridge man's notable success in Toastmasters' public speaking contest

**COWBRIDGE** resident Tony Bennett, a founder member of the local club of public speaking and leadership organisation **Toastmasters International**, on Sunday he showed why they style themselves 'Wizards with Words,' when they achieved first time success at the **Toastmasters International area speech contest** in Swindon.

Despite being the newest public speaking club in Wales, Cardiff Toastmasters carried off the first prize for a speech by Tony Bennett entitled 'Remember Me,' and Melanie Harbinson achieved second place in the speech evaluation contest.

Toastmasters International was established in California 89 years ago and made its first entry into Wales five years ago with the forming of the 'Voice of Wales'



ABOVE: Tony Bennett pictured with his award.

club who meet in Usk.

The six contestants were from as far afield as Plymouth, Swindon and Cheltenham and had all won contests in their own clubs.

Tony and Melanie will move on to compete at the Toastmasters

District contest in Cardiff, where they will face challengers from Toastmasters clubs from throughout the southern UK.

Tony is a psychotherapist and clinical hypnotist, personal and business coach; Melanie is an international development professional.

Cardiff Toastmasters, 'Wizards With Words' are a membership club who meet at The Quakers Meeting House, Charles Street, Cardiff on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6.45pm to 9.30pm. All are welcome.

Tony said: "Every meeting of Toastmasters is fun and interesting. The three prepared speeches given at each meeting are on a topic of the speaker's choice and most often something they are passionate about."

"Most people would rather die than get up in front of a group and speak. We work together to become better and more comfortable public speakers and leaders in our community."

## ALL STARS NETBALLERS' TOURNAMENT TRIUMPH

**THE** Cowbridge All Stars under-11s netball squad rocketed to victory last weekend, beating seven other teams to win the Cardiff and Vale Netball Finals tournament, played at Cardiff University's Llys Tal y Bont.

The under-11s team played an exhausting set of matches with a reduced squad of only eight members but managed to secure significant wins in every game they played, despite the impressive opposition.

The attack was superb throughout the tournament: Ella Jones (Cowbridge) was a faultless Goal Shooter, working seamlessly with a formidable Beth Edwards (Goal Attack) and a tenacious Iwan Ap-John Williams (Wing Attack). Jessica Gregory (Centre) provided a superb link between the defence and attack.



All Stars under-11s.

The defence was consistently flawless: tight marking and exceptional teamwork by James Eason (Goal Defence) and Emily Gregory (Goal Keeper) foiled numerous attacks by the opposing teams.

Progression across the pitch was brilliantly facilitated by a tireless Amelie Ball and a determined Ella Jones (Pendoylan) in the wing positions.

All members of the Cowbridge under-11s

squad played to an incredibly high standard and their tournament win was well deserved. Player of the tournament was awarded to Beth Edwards.

The under-13s team also put out an outstanding display in their age group. They fought hard to win all their games and a nail-biting final match ended with this talented team narrowly missing winning the tournament by a single goal. The under-13s

runners up squad were Rachel Reilly, Angharad Llion, Bethany Barrell, Nia Davies, Lily Devonald, Heather Bowkett, Hannah Sloan, Alice Teague, Sophie Rees, Chloe Holehouse, Molly Ward Tossell, and Selina Radcliffe.

Finally, the under-15 squad competed well against tough competition to secure some hard fought wins.

Despite playing some excellent netball, a marginal point difference disappointingly saw this senior squad just missing out on the tournament final.

The under-15 players were Ffion Vickers, Maya Bell, Lucy Housley, Olivia Jones, Annie Lloyd, Niamh Cooper, Nia Fenn, Hanna Crosby, Steph Sen and Bethan Swallow.

Overall, Saturday saw a brilliant display of netball by all three age groups.

It was a fitting end to a wonderful Cowbridge All Stars season; all thanks to their excellent coaches Leah Croke and Mags Croke.

LYNNE EDWARDS

## How a drug user's life was turned around

**THIS** Sunday (April 21) the Vale Church holds its monthly cafe-church in the function room of The Duke of Wellington at 5pm.

This is an informal event which would suit anyone who is uncomfortable with regular church, but is interested in hearing about individual experiences of faith in a relaxed non-religious environment.

Last month, leader Neil Harvey, shared some of his dramatic life story. He explained how, as a normal school-boy, he became involved in substance abuse, which was a gateway to other drugs.

This downward spiral continued for many years which ended up in drug dealing and a prison sentence.

His life was turned around by a personal encounter with God, which led him to faith and a vocation as a pastor and mentor to others with a similar history. As well as the usual pastoral duties, Neil provides drug and alcohol awareness lessons in schools and other youth organisations.

Last year, Neil published his autobiography, *Uncaged*, in Cowbridge which has proved very popular with Christians and non-Christians alike. Copies are available from Vale Church.

This week's speaker, Caroline, has a less dramatic but equally moving testimony of a personal encounter with Jesus, which has brought contentment and meaning to her life. AG

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Lorraine - 01446 407002

**Penarth 5.30pm & 7.30pm**  
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue  
Nia - 07793 885581

**TUESDAY**  
Barry 5.30pm  
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street  
Joanne - 01446 404897

**Llantwit Major 9.30am**  
Catholic Church, Ham Lane East  
Helen - 01446 750738

**Barry RFC 7.30pm**  
Merthyr Dyfan Road  
Teresa - 07889 828401

**Llantwit Major 5.30pm & 7.30pm**  
Our Lady & St Iltyd Church (Catholic)  
Ham Lane East  
Helen - 01446 750738

**Sully 6.30pm**  
The Old School South Road  
Niki - 01446 740394

**WEDNESDAY**  
Barry 4.45 & 6.45pm  
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell  
Annmarie - 01446 736534

**Penarth 9.30am & 11.30am**  
All Saints Church Hall  
Victoria Square  
Tracy - 07894 275853

**Penarth 5.30pm & 7.30pm**  
All Saints Church Hall  
Victoria Square  
Tracy - 07894 275853

**THURSDAY**  
Barry 5.30pm  
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry  
Annmarie - 01446 736534

**Cowbridge 9.30am**  
Cowbridge Rugby Club  
Rob - 07708 941279

**Dinas Powys 5.30pm & 7.30pm**  
The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall  
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**Barry 10.15am**  
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SEE MORE OF OUR  
HEALTH AND BEAUTY  
FEATURE ON PAGE 18



**Saturday 27th April 2013**

2.00pm-3.30pm Barry Leisure Centre Ages 7-16

### Sway Elite AUDITION!!!!

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**Saturday 11th May 2013**

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### Monday Dance

Barry Leisure Centre

2:00-3:30pm Tea Dancing (Adults 16 plus) *New!*  
(30 minutes instruction, with up to 1 hour of free dance)  
(Included within class cost is a cup of tea or coffee!)

Penarth Leisure Centre

5:00-6:00pm Cheerleading! (Age 7-14) *New!*  
(Arm motions, jumps, kicks, pirouettes, splits, leaps and differing dance styles including Pom Poms!)

### Wednesday Dance

Cowbridge Leisure Centre

2:00-3:30pm Tea Dancing (Adults 16 plus) *New!*  
(30 minutes instruction, with up to 1 hour of free dance)  
(Included within class cost is a cup of tea or coffee!)

Barry Leisure Centre

4:30-5:30pm Cheerleading! (Age 7-14) *New!*  
(Arm motions, jumps, kicks, pirouettes, splits, leaps and differing dance styles including Pom Poms!)

### Thursday Dance

Penarth Leisure Centre

2:00-3:30pm Tea Dancing (Adults 16 plus) *New!*  
(30 minutes instruction, with up to 1 hour of free dance)  
(Included within class cost is a cup of tea or coffee!)

### Friday Dance

Cowbridge Leisure Centre

7:30-9pm Tap Dancing

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### Saturdays Dance

Cowbridge Leisure Centre

9:30-10:00am Tiny Tots Ballet (And Early Development) (Age 3-6)  
10:00-10:30 Tiny Tots Street Dance (Age 3-6)  
10:30-11:30 Junior Street Dance (Age 7-11)  
11:30-12:30pm Senior Street Dance (Age 12 +)  
12:30-1:00pm Sway Elite

Penarth Leisure Centre

2:00-2:30pm Tiny Tots Ballet (Age 3-6)  
2:30-3:00pm Tiny Tots Street Dance (Age 3-6)  
3:00-4:00pm Junior Street Dance (Age 7-11)  
4:00-5:00pm Senior Street Dance (Age 12 +)

### Sunday Dance

Llantwit Major Leisure Centre

10:00-10:30am Tiny Tots Ballet (Age 3-6)  
10:30-11:00am Tiny Tots Street Dance (Age 3-6)  
11:00-12:00pm Junior Street Dance (Age 7-11)  
12:00-1:00pm Senior Street Dance (Age 12 +)

Barry Leisure Centre

9:30am-10:00am Tiny Tots Ballet (Age 3-6)  
10:00-10:30am Tiny Tots Street Dance (Age 3-6)  
10:30-11:00am Tiny Tots Street Dance (Age 5-6)  
11:00-12:00pm Junior Street Dance (Age 7-11)  
12:00-1:00pm Senior Street Dance (Age 12 +)

Barry Leisure Centre  
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Barry  
Vale of Glamorgan  
CF63 4JJ

Penarth Leisure Centre  
(Cogan Leisure Centre)  
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Cogan  
Penarth  
Vale of Glamorgan  
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Cowbridge Leisure Centre  
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Trish Righton with Melanie Carter, Coun Eric Hacker and wife Heather.

## VALEPLUS BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO TRISH

THE VALEPLUS charity for people with a learning disability, recently presented Trish Righton with a bunch of flowers to mark her retirement, after serving on the trustee board for 10 years.

Coun Eric Hacker, Mayor of the Vale,

made the presentation at a coffee morning held to raise funds for ValePlus, and praised Trish for her commitment to the charity over the years. Melanie Carter also thanked Trish for her support and wished her well in the future.

## PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB Investigating the family tree...

IT'S time to talk to yourself, says Mike J. If you want to build a family tree, that's the way to start. But why would you want to build one in the first place?

The words fun, curiosity, interest, making friends and legacy cropped up, as well as delight and satisfaction of discovery, as Mike enthused about his long-term hobby. There is the frisson of excitement that you might stumble across an odd dark family secret in the process.

It is easier nowadays, as there is more information available. Some is free and some has to be paid for, but you are in charge of the process and costs can be controlled by pacing your research.

Getting started is easy. Interview yourself and write it all down. Keep it simple. Record the basic information on a sheet of paper – family name and all forenames; and the date and place of birth and Christening.

There are forms available that will help you to organise your records. Then interview as many relatives as you can.

It quickly becomes clear that there are some ground rules to follow.

Record facts. Record no assumptions unless they are clearly recorded as such.

Any uncertainties should be flagged with a view to getting verification at a later date.

Work in a set way. Use a form and ask the same questions.

A lot of progress can be made without a computer, but one certainly helps. It enables searches to be made on on-line sources; it can help keep your records neat and print them out for your record book.

Ask about old family photographs. Just browsing them can stir memories and there is often vital information written on the back.

Mike talked about how the branches on your tree can multiply rapidly.

When census records and church registers are exhausted (by following birth, death and marriage certificates) you can turn to armed forces records or even prison records.

There are societies one can join to share the fun and courses to attend to learn more.

Reading old records can sometimes be quite difficult, yet fascinating, as the language and writing styles have changed over time.

Mike is still enjoying the research and yes, he has found the odd family skeleton, previously unknown.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 23, at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. 7.30pm for 8pm. It will be another Brains Trust, where questions might even be answered. See our website at penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

HOWARD DESMOND

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## ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Doctor Bob Balloons in rebranding exercise



The Qualatex retail unit in the store.

THE popular business in High Street, Barry, doctor bob BALLOONS UNLIMITED, is being rebranded, to create a sleek, modern image for the years ahead.

The company is a family concern with the team – Bob, Claire, Julie and Amber – all working together to give the best advice and customer service.

The shop now has its own consultation room, where clients, whether they are brides, corporate representatives or simply somebody arranging a family celebration, can sit down with a member of staff, have a coffee, and discover the balloon creations and other products that will make their party or event go with a swing.

The company is one of only a few stores chosen by the makers of Qualatex balloons to launch its new retail units.

As a celebration of the partnership and the rebranding, the shop is holding a special balloon day on Friday, April 26, from 11am until 4pm.

A special character will be making appearances on the day and there will be a competition and free giveaways for the children.

Balloon bouquets, exclusively designed by Qualatex and doctor bob BALLOONS UNLIMITED, will be created in store.

Staff at the store can create hundreds of designs. Qualatex balloon bouquets by Doctor Bobs make unique gifts and are perfect for adding the 'wow' factor to any party or special occasion.

The owners, Claire Cummings and Bob Armstrong told The GEM: "We are delighted to be launching this fantastic new Qualatex range of balloons and we love making the balloon bouquets."

"Our shop is very much a family place, so we hope people will come along and support us."

The shop's showroom is on the ground floor, but downstairs another innovation is taking shape.

There is a children's party and 'balloon skills' area, where children can celebrate birthdays or play games.

On April 26, people will be invited to enter a competition to win £50 worth of Qualatex balloons for the special occasion of their choice.

Qualatex manufactures balloons of all shapes, sizes, colours and themes, so the prize will be great for any occasion whether it is for a wedding, christenings, hen night, child or adult birthday party, or even a corporate event.

Kevin Thain, Qualatex store development manager explained: "Qualatex balloons are available in High Street outlets across the UK, but the retail units we are launching here enable customers to select from a wider variety of balloons and have a unique balloon bouquet service."

"We are very excited about the launch of the new retail units and look forward to receiving customer feedback. With all these exclusive new designs, customers will be spoilt for choice!"



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# Goslin and Cooper combine in a drama that impresses... but it fails to run the course

**WHEN** Ryan Gosling recently announced he was taking a break from acting, it was understandable.

After all, since his breakout turn in 2006's *Half Nelson*, he has worked incredibly hard, building a reputation as one of the most intense and thrilling actors of his generation.

Before his little holiday he has two more films lined up, but his latest sees him on screen with recent Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper in *The Place Beyond the Pines*.

Gosling plays Luke, a motorcycle stunt rider who takes to robbing banks to help his newborn child and the child's mother Romina (Eva Mendes). His law-breaking brings him face-to-face with Avery (Cooper), an ambitious policeman who faces his own battle in making his way in a department ruled by corruption...

*The Place Beyond the Pines* marks the second time that Ryan Gosling

has worked with writer/director Derek Cianfrance, their first team-up the unflinching *Blue Valentine* and, on the basis of that film, is a piece eagerly awaited by those knocked out by that film's brutal look at the breakdown of a relationship.

*The Place Beyond the Pines* is another look at relationships, this time between fathers and their sons, yet carries a sense of drama, scope and scale that marks out Cianfrance as a writer/director of ambition; and while the film loses its way somewhat towards the end, this ambition in impressively realised.

It's a film that brings to mind the work of James Gray (*We Own the Night*, *The Yards*) in that it deals with crime, and its after-effects, and familial responsibility, and much like Gray, Cianfrance takes his time over the story, refusing to rush or push the pace.

While it results in a slowly paced film, it is also one that is rich in characters and the relationships that are drawn from them.



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

born of necessity rather than choice.

With two red-hot leads in Gosling and Bradley Cooper, Cianfrance draws strong performances from both. Gosling's charisma and magnetism holds the screen entirely and this is one of his finest performances to date, capturing Luke's internal struggle and his need to provide for the ones he loves with the skill-set he has, while a simmering rage that lies beneath occasionally bubbles to the surface.

Cooper's performance doesn't quite hit the heights of Gosling, but as a man crippled by feelings of guilt, and trying to stay true to his morals, he shines brightly.

With the likes of Eva Mendes (showing she can get down and dirty and deliver the goods), Ray Liotta and Dane DeHaan (who plays Luke's grown-up son) all giving strong performances, it is a well-acted piece that gives a good cast something of substance to work with.

The only thing that derails the film is a final act that sees us go for-

ward in time 15 years and see where the characters are. While elements, including the aforementioned DeHaan, work well, it's a shame that this strand of the story is the weakest and least engaging.

It makes the film, which isn't the paciest, slow right down and the finale, which should be a heightened moment of drama, doesn't hit home with the power that you would hope.

What goes before, however, is deeply impressive, and while Cianfrance can't quite sustain the movie over its 141 minute running time, what he does do works incredibly well.

**VERDICT** - An ambitious, sprawling work that reiterates Derek Cianfrance's credentials as a writer/director to watch. *The Place Beyond the Pines* may wobble towards its climax, but strong performances and Cianfrance's ability as a storyteller make it an engaging experience. Recommended.

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Blue Valentine* (2010), *We Own the Night* (2007).

# Potter throws a spell over the Art Central Friends

ON March 21, Geoffrey Swindell talked to members of Art Central Friends and interested members of the public, about his work and career at Art Central Gallery, King Square in Barry.

Geoff is an internationally-known potter, living on our doorstep and his work not only sells all over the world but is held in several national and international museum collections too.

His talk proved interesting and informative and he brought samples of his work, as well as a slide presentation.

What was most interesting to hear were the influences on Geoff's art, both his life experiences, as well as the eclectic range of source material as diverse as from the natural world to plastic toys from the Star War range, which he both photographs and collects.

He showed us how his work had developed and morphed throughout his working life. An ex-university lecturer, he has now retired and works only from September to May in his home studio -

he reserves the summer for his other great love - riding his motorbike.

He works in miniature, as most of his pieces hardly ever exceed four inches or 10cm in height, and are thrown using porcelain clay.

Geoff used the talk as preparation for his prestigious presentation at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford later this week.

Art Central Friends welcome the public to come and hear or speakers.

The next talk is on May 9 in the Gallery at 7.30pm, when Glyn Pooley will speak to us about his current exhibi-

tion called 'Between the Lines', which runs from April 16-May 11.

'Between the Lines' is a series of drawings by the artist from a network of motivating and intriguing Welsh people, which he has expanded to include people such as Dr Rowan Williams - former Archbishop of Canterbury; Carwyn Jones - First Minister of Wales, Steve Brace - Olympic marathon runner, Dr Deirdre Beddoe - historian and Charles Byrd, artist.

MONIKA JONES, Chairman, Art Central Friends.

# 'Protect the bees!' - call

**THE six Wildlife Trusts in Wales last week called on the Welsh Government to follow Scotland's lead and consider a ban on the use of three neonicotinoids (pesticides) which have been shown to be harmful to bees.**

The call came on the day the Assembly launched its draft 'Action Plan for Pollinators'.

"These chemicals have been shown to affect the foraging behaviour of bees and damage bee brain function," said Rachel Sharp, CEO of Wildlife Trusts Wales.

"This will have serious consequences for a group of insects that are vital to pollinating crops and wildflowers in Wales."



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## May/June 2013

### Friday 3rd May - Gloucester

Featuring the Waterways Museum, Cruise on the Gloucester/Sharpness Canal and Beatrice Potters 'Tailor of Gloucester' Museum and Shop. Depart at 09.00 and Return at 18.30.

£23.00 pp including Admission Tickets

### Thursday 9th May - Evesham, Blossom Trail

Wonderful tour through the delightful scenery and splendid countryside, taking in the towns of Evesham and Pershore. Depart at 09.15 and Return at 18.30.

£28.00 pp inclusive of one course lunch in Evesham and the Blossom Tour

### Sunday 12th May - Malvern Spring Show

The blossoming RHS Malvern Spring Gardening Show brings together inspirational ideas, practical tips and a fantastic day out for gardeners. Depart at 08.00 and Return at 19.00.

£29.00 pp including Admission Ticket

### Tuesday 21st May - Abergavenny Market

One of the best market towns in South Wales with over 200 indoor and outdoor stalls. Depart at 10.00 and Return at 16.30.

£15.00 pp

### Friday 24th May - National Botanical Gardens

The most visited garden in Wales! Depart at 09.30 and Return at 17.50.

£21.00 pp including Admission Tickets

### Saturday 25th May - Cotswold Steam Railway Festival

A spectacular celebration of steam, with up to 7 engines in full steam over 12 miles of historical track. Hot and cold food, trade and educational stands.

Depart at 09.00 and Return at 18.30.

£30.00 pp including Admission Tickets and unlimited train journeys throughout the day

### Wednesday 29th May - Weston Super Mare

Always a favourite! Depart at 09.30 and Return at 18.30.

£16.00 pp

### Friday 31st May - Chepstow Castle / Tintern Abbey

and Two Course Lunch in the stunning Wye Valley

Depart at 09.30 and Return at 17.30.

£26.00 pp including Admission Tickets and Two Course Lunch

### Sunday 2nd June - Marlborough Communities Market

#### and Two Course Sunday Lunch

Local is the name of the game at this newly established market gem. All products are sourced from local farms and businesses, followed by Sunday Lunch in the wonderful Wiltshire countryside. Depart at 09.00 and Return at 17.00.

£25.00 pp including Two Course Lunch and Admission to Market

### Thursday, 6th June - Aberglasney House & Gardens

One of the finest gardens in Wales. A truly wonderful day out.

Depart at 10.00 and Return at 16.30.

£20.00 pp inclusive of Admission Ticket

### Thursday 13th June - Cwmcam Forest Drive & Festival Shopping Centre

Cwmcam Forest Drive is a 7 mile long scenic route through the rolling hills and green mountains of one of the country's largest urban forests. After the Forest Drive, stop for a two course lunch before an afternoon shopping at Festival Centre.

Depart at 09.30 and Return at 18.00.

£19.00 pp including Two Course Lunch and Forest Drive Admission

### Sunday 16th June - Royal Three Counties Show

Royal Three Counties Show for a jam packed day of entertainment and fun, all in celebration of our great British farming world and countryside. Depart at 08.30 and Return at 18.30.

£30.00 pp inclusive of Show Admission Ticket

### Friday 21st June - Bristol Shopping and River Cruise

A few hours shopping at Cabot's Circus in Bristol, then spend the afternoon on the Avon Gorge River Cruise, sailing through the floating harbour under the suspension bridge to the Bristol Channel and back again. Depart at 11.00 and Return at 20.00.

£29.00 pp including River Cruise Ticket

### Wednesday 26th June - Porthcawl & Bridgend Outlet Village

Early lunch and a seaside stroll in Porthcawl before a couple of hours shopping at Mearthar Glen Outlet Village in Bridgend. Depart at 09.30 and Return at 17.00.

£18.00 pp including Lunch in Porthcawl

### Thursday 27th June - Carmarthen

St Catherine's Walk Shopping Centre, afternoon tea on the Gwili Steam Railway.

Depart at 09.30 and Return at 18.30.

£26.00 pp including Return Train Ticket and Afternoon Tea

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# Out and About with The GEM

## £12,260 funding for radio station

NINE community radio stations across Wales have been awarded grants totalling £100,000, including £12,260 for Bro Radio, which is based in Barry.

Vale AM Jane Hutt AM said: "Bro Radio plays a valuable role drawing attention to local issues in the community and I am delighted that it has received funding to continue its excellent work."



## 'Superstars' support church's organ appeal

ON Friday, May 17, Superstars in the Making are performing at All Saints' Church, Barry to support the organ appeal.

Superstars in the Making is a professional training centre for the performing arts, based in Barry and trains students from all over south Wales.

They are frequently invited to perform at high profile events and

produce musicals each year, last year's being *Fame* at the Barry Memorial Hall.

Local celebrity Connie Fisher is patron to the academy and frequently works alongside principal, Christian Bullen, on projects.

On May 17, they will perform 'An Evening with the Superstars' - a revue style show of music and dance.

It will involve up to 60 performers, aged from six to 25 years - an event

not to be missed!

Christian Bullen said: "Superstars are delighted to be supporting such a worthy cause for the community of Barry."

"This will be an opportunity to perform to a wider audience at a very different venue with great acoustics, and will also demonstrate the range of talent that we have locally, all in aid of the organ appeal".

Suzanne Grover, of the fundraising committee, said: "To have the academy performing at All Saints' Church is a first for our appeal."

"We are nearing our target amount and this event will support the final push towards the £70,000 total needed to restore our historic pipe organ".

Tickets for the show are available from A & A Dancewear, Park Crescent, Barry, and following church services at All Saints' Church, Barry.

Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £4 for children up to 16 years.

The show will start at 7pm and end at 9pm with doors opening at 6.15pm.

For more information about the organ appeal, visit [www.barryall saints.org.uk](http://www.barryall saints.org.uk)

For more information about Superstars, see [www.superstarsinthe making.com](http://www.superstarsinthe making.com) AE

## WHAT'S ON

### Gardening club

THE AGM of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, April 15, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall.

### Penarth surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF54 1SA between 1pm-2pm on April 19.

No appointment is necessary.

### Councillors' surgery

THE Llantwit First Independents will be holding a surgery at the Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major on Saturday, April 20, from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Residents with any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

### Tax help for elderly

TAX HELP for Older People (TOP) will hold a free income tax surgery to offer advice to older people on a restricted income, at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major, CF61 1RB on April 22 from 10am to 12 noon.

No appointment is necessary. To access TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

### Fibromyalgia

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on April 23, at the Barry Public Library, 1pm-2.30pm. Telephone Gaynor on 01446 733315 for details.

### Art society demo

ON April 25, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes artist Lorraine Bewsey (see [www.lorrainesartstudio.co.uk](http://www.lorrainesartstudio.co.uk)) She will give oils and pastels demo. The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall,

Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm. Visitors are welcome. See [www.cowbridgeartsociety.com](http://www.cowbridgeartsociety.com)

### Rhose talk

THERE will be a meeting of the Rhose and District History Society on Friday, April 26 at 7.30pm at the Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road.

Coun Jeff James, chairman, told The GEM: "We are fortunate to have Mr John Chucas, who will be speaking on the intriguing subject of 'Local Bells and Smells'. Entrance is just £1 and all are welcome."

### Shadows Club

MAY 14, Penarth: The Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth (029 2030 9979); South Wales Shadows Club's meeting, play (use the PA) or just listen; 8pm, usually £3; all welcome.

## Busy days ahead at wartime museum

THE summer looks set to be an extra busy time for the Barry at War volunteers who run the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre on Barry Island Station.

Barry at War spokesman Ade Pitman writes:

Our monthly Sunday open days have become ever busier, so our volunteers will be now opening the museum every Wednesday afternoon as well, so as to provide a better opportunity for visitors to meet us if they would like to record their wartime memories.

When funds allow, we hope to acquire a touch screen computer, so that visitors can hear these at the museum.

We want to make our small museum as interactive as possible, and not just a room full of dusty objects. Our First World War Trench experience is a good example of this, as it allows people a chance to imagine what life would have been like on the Western Front.

With the Centenary of the First World War beginning next year, we are working with Barry Town Council and other partners to ensure that Barry has an appropriate programme of commemorative events to mark this event.

This work will also involve launching a series of projects that families

can get involved with, which we hope will help people to see how this war affected all of us today.

We've many out-reach projects planned for this summer.

Barry at War will be supporting Cardiff Old Library with a 1940s event on May 24 as part of Adult Learning Week, and also the St Athan 75th anniversary event on July 9.

This event is of particular significance to myself, as it was being posted to St Athan that brought me to Wales.

Planning is also well in hand for this year's Wartime Weekend event, which will mark the 70th anniversary of the 'Borough of Barry' buying a Spitfire for the Royal Air Force.

Following the generosity of local companies last year, we're currently looking for sponsors who would like to support this year's community event.

We'd also like to hear from anyone who would like to help out as a volunteer at the museum, and of course full training will be given.

The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre will be open on Wednesday afternoons. Doors open at 2pm. Admission is free.

For more information, see website [www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk](http://www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk) or call Ade Pitman on 07930874161.

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|  | <b>Friday 10 May 7.30pm</b><br><b>Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge</b><br><b>Onix Ensemble</b> evoke the rhythms and colours of Latin America   |
|  | <b>Sunday 12 May 3.30pm</b><br><b>Fonmon Castle, nr Barry</b><br><b>Strawberries, Strings and Champagne</b><br>With Solstice String Quartet |
|  | <b>Thursday 16 May 7.30pm</b><br><b>St Augustine's Church, Penarth</b><br><b>Vox Clamantis</b> - an evening of sacred choral music          |
|  | <b>Friday 17 May 11am</b><br><b>Ewenny Priory Church, nr Bridgend</b><br><b>Vox Clamantis</b> sing Arvo Part                                |

valeofglamorganfestival.org.uk

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## BIG SCREEN

BIG SCREEN's next film is *Quartet* (Cert 12A) on Thursday, April 25 at 7.30pm in Cowbridge Town Hall.

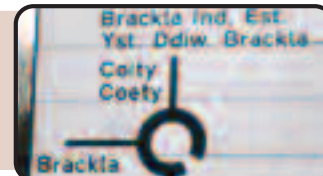
In a retirement home for musicians, three members (Pauline Collins, Billy Connolly and Tom Courtenay) plan to put on their annual concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday, to be produced by Michael Gambon.

A new member, singing diva, Maggie Smith, refuses to join in until...

Doors open 7.10pm; tickets £4 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).



## CANOLFAN BRACKLA TRIANGLE Links Bridgend's Traders... Brackla BUSINESS Profile



# Businesses offer value and service – in equal measure

**W**HEN I was growing up in Bridgend county borough, people used to casually

refer to Brackla as the "biggest housing estate in Europe".

It was a long time before the world-wide web, so it was

n't easy to check, but a quick google nowadays proves that there never was a shred of truth in that.

Becontree near Dagenham, for instance, built between 1927 and 1932, had 27,000 homes, all council houses – and it has probably grown a bit since then!

Brackla, in contrast, with 5,000 homes and a population of around 11,000, suddenly looks more like a village!

In fact, Brackla is a fine example of suburban living, with a thriving trading estate on the edge, and a busy shopping precinct, alongside community buildings in the centre.

Everyone drives around Brackla from

time to time, but the Brackla Industrial Estate is something that can easily be overlooked.

It's profile is sure to be raised now that the Parc Derwen housing development is growing fast, as the estate entrance is directly opposite – a left turn off Coity Road as opposed to a right into Parc Derwen.

A perennial bugbear for trading estates is that so many potential customers never take the trouble to look around.

However, if you take a tour of the estate, you will find stores specialising in tiles, furniture, auto repairs, decorating, homes and gardens, removals and storage, electrical items,



The Triangle precinct has its own village pub, the Two Brewers.

as a snooker hall and engineering.

There is a busy cafe, and a takeaway too.

Brackla's traditional centre – the Triangle – is thriving too, with all the features that make up a shopping precinct.

It has a newsagents, grocery store, off licence, hairdressers, a pharmacy, estate agents, is home to Marie Curie and Barnardo's and has a wealth of takeaways to choose from!

The area has been boosted by the opening of Archbishop McGrath School, which moved from its site in Tondy to a purpose-built brand new home.

The school has sports facilities that are available for

community use.

Brackla is predominantly a family estate, and that is highlighted by the remarkable statistic of having five primary schools that serve the area.

Another organisation that serves the community is Brackla Tabernacle, a thriving, family church near The Triangle.

A spokesperson said: "We run a wide variety of activities for everyone – children, young people, adults, families and older people. We would love people to come and join us and find out more. Visit us at [www.bracklatabernacle.org](http://www.bracklatabernacle.org) or pop in and see us."

A thriving community such as Brackla can give local busi-

nesses a head start in the economic marketplace.

In turn, those businesses can offer good value and good service to the wider community, so it really is

worth checking out Brackla and its industrial estate when you are considering a purchase – you might find just what you need!

PHILIP IRWIN

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**BRACKLA Snooker Club** has been established for over 20 years and now proprietor Darren Wright celebrates his first anniversary since taking it over.

The club is well known in Bridgend and surrounding areas and has held the Welsh junior championship on numerous occasions. There are 15 snooker tables in their spacious playing area, together with a two-table match room for that extra privacy.

Cues are provided if you don't have your own.

If you feel you want to take your game to the next level, they also sell a variety of cues, and you may even join one of the three snooker

teams at the club.

Players of all abilities are welcome.

Not sure of the rules? They will happily advise you!

Also available is an enclosed pool room with two English pool tables and an American nine ball.

Annual membership is available, £5 adults, £3 under-16s. Guests and visitors most welcome; small fee will apply. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied.

Junior academy every Saturday from 10am – 11.30am, coached by an ex-professional – let your child unleash their hidden talent!

Check out our websites: [www.bracklasnooker.webs.com](http://www.bracklasnooker.webs.com) and [bracklasnookerandpool.com](http://bracklasnookerandpool.com).

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## LETTERS EXTRA

### Air Sea Rescue changes really an improvement?

**F**URTHER to Mr Colin Dudley's letter on sell-offs in last week's GEM, I must confess to being somewhat puzzled over the Vale MP's recent column (in The GEM).

Mr Alun Cairns blandly states that Bristow Helicopters Ltd will provide a 20 per cent improvement in flying times to rescue incidents, based on historical data – and in so doing, agrees with the CEO/owner of that company, who previously stated this on TV.

This assurance comes without them having yet taken to the skies for a single incident!

It also implies the current Air Sea Rescue Service is 20 per cent below capacity and it is disparaging to their efforts.

It is not so long ago that the Bristol Channel was considered unworthy of an air base at RAF Chivenor and Brawdy by Mr Cairns' Government; and would

be ideally served by RAF Valley in north Wales (idiotcy at the least). So, Mr Cairns, what about supplying some facts that would be relevant to taxpayers?

St Athan is a ready-made base for Bristow Helicopters Ltd – therefore no construction costs! Will there be substantial rental charges for airport use, or will these be of a peppercorn nature?

Will future unfortunate victims of shipwrecks, cliff falls, inclement weather, etc, be charged by Bristow Helicopters Ltd?

The MP's 'Viewpoint' argument is yet another example of college boy theories put forward by a Tory politician knowing the cost of everything, but the value of nothing.

Finally, I am certain that only the test of time will decide whether fledgling Bristow Helicopters Ltd will be worthy of comparison with our RAF Air Sea Rescue Service – let alone produce a 20 per cent improvement.

**C M James, Barry.**

### Red Kites spotted

**W**ITH reference to recent letters in The GEM, I write to confirm that Red Kites are in the Vale, and have been spotted by members of the Wild Life Trust of South West Wales

<http://www.welshwildlife.org/> in Sington, Llantwit Major and St Brides Major.

Only two weeks ago, while in my garden at Llandough, Cowbridge, I heard a loud raucous of jackdaws screaming.

I looked up and there, not 50 feet above my head, were four jackdaws mobbing a beautiful Red Kite.

It was weaving this way and that just above my head in an attempt to get away from the jackdaws.

It was a wondrous sight, seeing the beautiful

ful chestnut plumage and the distinctive V in its tail just above my head.

The bird was on its own trying to get away from the mobbing. The jackdaws have built up a large nesting group in Llandough Castle woods, so were not too well pleased when a new 'raptor' visited the Thaw Valley.

We have had breeding buzzards in the Thaw Valley for many years and their chicks calling in a very distinctive sound for food echoes around this wooded valley, but this is my first-ever confirmation of the Red Kite and I hope it will be the first of many.

*PS. A neighbour at the mill has recently seen an otter in the valley by the River Thaw, so we are blessed with nature's bounty!*

**Mr Glyn Jones Llandough**

### Lights necessary?

**D**O people who work in the public sector go on courses to learn verbosity – or are they paid by the word?

A statement from the Vale highways manager, reported in The GEM concerning traffic lights, takes the best part of 200 words to say: "They are not working properly and we are going to fix them."

We are told that lights are a necessary safety measure, but I am not

aware of any serious accidents that have taken place at Sycamore Cross, simply because everybody has taken extra care when coming out of Five Mile Lane or the Pendoylan road.

Given the parlous state of many roads in the Vale, this money would have been better spent elsewhere.

I understand that the contractor received £700,000 of the £1.2 million cost – so where did the rest of the money go?

**Alec Trousdell Dyffryn**

# High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan celebrates young people's efforts at community awards



Left to right: Mrs Jayne James; Mrs Ann Jenkins (High Sheriff); Mr Rory McLaggan (High Sheriff Designate); Mrs Anne Y Morgan (awards organiser). Photographs by KEITH E MORGAN.

**RECENTLY, young people in mid-Glamorgan received financial awards from the High Sheriff of Mid-Glamorgan, Mrs Ann Jenkins, for their work in the community.**

Awards are made each year by the High Sheriff to individuals and groups under the age of 21, who live in one of the three counties of Mid-Glamorgan.

The awards presentation evening was held this year at Sony UK Technology Centre, Pencoed Technology Park, by permission of managing director Steve Dalton, who commented: "We are delighted to have hosted the High Sheriff Awards this year and huge congratula-

tions to all of the winners. It's great to see young individuals' enthusiasm and commitment taking pride in helping out in their local community."

The speaker was Mrs Jayne James, who praised the young award-winners for their contributions to community life.

The High Sheriff said that the scheme, set up in 2008, was a great success and she was very grateful to all the sponsors, and particularly to Sony UK who had hosted the awards presentation and laid on a superb buffet for everyone.

Next year, the presentation evening will be held in the premises of the other major sponsor, Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, also at Pencoed Technology

Park. Nominations for 2014 can be submitted up to Friday, January 24, 2014, for the prizes which range up to £500. Nomination forms will be found on the South Wales Police website or by emailing: [highsheriffmidglamorgan@googlemail.com](mailto:highsheriffmidglamorgan@googlemail.com) The presentation evening will take place in March 2014.

In the individual awards, first prize was awarded to Savannah Foley from Merthyr Tydfil who received an award of £250

Savannah is one of the main volunteers in the 3G's Development Trust and started volunteering around 2007.

Her contribution includes fund-raising activities of all kind which has greatly contributed to the forty thousand pounds 3G's have raised in the last

three years, a sum which has been used to take over 80 youngsters to Disneyland to perform.

Joint second prize went to a young lady from the Llynfi Valley, and Kieran Sawdon from Tondur.

Both received prizes of £200 each.

The young lady was referred by BAVO to work as a volunteer but after her six weeks at a centre, she continued to give up her valuable personal time, during studying for her A-Levels, to volunteer in a sexual health clinic and as a youth worker. The young lady was nominated by PCSO Rachel Bargey.

Kieran Sawdon is a carer for a close relative, but still finds time for activities such as the Bridgend Youth Council, where he is a cabinet member.

He is also a 'Funky Dragon' member, which means representing the county on a national basis.

It also means membership of the sustainable development and climate change section, which meets regularly.

Kieran was nominated by Mrs Sharon Clarke of Maesteg Comprehensive School.

Third prize of £150 was awarded to Sadie Nash from Maesteg. Sadie has been a volunteer at the Ty Hafan shop in Maesteg since 2011, spending her Saturdays and some holiday time at the shop.

She also volunteers with Llangynwyd Brownies every week, organising games and helping with the preparation, as well as helping to support pupils at her school.

Sadie was nominated by Mrs Non Lewis of



The High Sheriff presents the Individual Awards Third Prize certificate and cheque to Sadie Nash from Maesteg.



The individual award joint second prize certificate and cheque went to Kieran Sawdon, of Tondur

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

In the group awards, first prize of £500 was awarded to Rhys Boys 4 Life from Rhydyfelin.

Joint second prize of £250 each went to the 3G's Music and Arts Group from Merthyr Tydfil, nominated by Lee Davies, community development officer, and to Trallwng Youth Forum from Pontypridd, nominated by Jonathan Handy.

There was also a



The highly commended group prize certificate and cheque was accepted on behalf of Pencoed Neighbour Hoodies by the Mayor of Pencoed, Coun Richard Williams.

highly commended group prize which went to Pencoed Neighbour Hoodies, nominated by Pencoed Town Council.

The group was set up under the community safety initiative. Group members attend and contribute to town council meetings, representing the views and opinions of other young people from the area.

This group received a cheque for £100.

## Tour of Egypt's treasures – without the tourists!

**THIS MONTH, Llanblethian WI members were transported to Egypt, a very different Egypt – without crowds. Due to the political problems in the Arab states, tourism in this area is at an all time low.**

However, this did not deter our courier, Mr Ron Powell, from escorting us on a journey from Cairo to Abu Simbel made easier for him (and the group) due to the lack of tourists!

We began our journey at Cairo's Egyptian Museum, which is bursting with ancient artefacts.

It also houses the contents of the tomb of Tutankhamun, which really sets the scene for a journey through Egypt.

An overnight train journey, never to be forgotten, or repeated, takes us from Cairo to Luxor.

It is steeped in ancient architecture and covered with monuments, which connect it to the great temple of Karnak some three kilometres away; this area is magnificent.

A river cruise then takes us from Luxor to Aswan with excursions to the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens – and many more ancient sights. Also, the Aswan dam built in the 1960s, is not a sight to be overlooked.

Our exciting journey concluded at Abu Simbel, which has the most beautiful and imaginative temples to be found in Egypt.

Mr Powell is a very capable presenter; together with his hi-tech equipment he paints a very vivid picture full of facts, and figures, and traveller's tales.

Join us at our next meeting, on Thursday, May 9, at the Church Hall, Llanblethian, where we will be discussing the WI Resolution for 2013 'How to save our High Streets'.

We have an excellent High Street in Cowbridge, one to be proud of, which we should make every effort to preserve.

VG

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number**

● **£2,000:** 453380.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £12,000, was won by 419822.**

● **£10:** 8 5 8 5 6 5

257208, 830298, 808185, 687409, 429632, 876757, 615518, 795356, 185745, 935454, 105804, 734966, 708424, 105725, 136701, 384018, 818734, 712002.

● **£5:** 319178, 376438, 537307, 759139, 958823, 642146, 800356, 470627, 711413, 788781, 562662, 475363, 586813, 376483,

304560, 491186, 689215, 196105, 689648, 741914, 176848, 326957, 494073, 646710, 415136, 388393, 747605, 699965, 342607, 286956, 237858, 783774, 700528, 694412, 576698, 684554, 870273, 287043, 710280, 642290, 327909, 773223, 755397, 597833, 243260, 284095, 352182, 719606, 171732, 838688, 498173, 113609, 510512, 411361, 497488, 551885, 224794, 224763.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300,

# GEM LETTERS EXTRA...GEM LETTERS EXTRA

## 'We're not hostile to any single party' says FocusBARRY chair

**WHAT a bizarre letter, 'I see your true colours shining through!' from Brian Morris of Barry (The GEM, April 11)**

FocusBARRY does not claim to be the voice of ordinary Barrians; quite the contrary – our constitution, values and principles are about encouraging people to speak for themselves. It is the political parties who seek to convince us that they speak on our behalf.

We have members and supporters of all political colours, but the majority of them are independent. Furthermore, FocusBARRY is not hostile to any specific political party, it seems more a case of paranoia on the part of Mr Morris.

Our members, supporters and guests are free to speak and join campaigns or political parties of their own choosing.

Indeed, the public meetings we held in the Illyd ward about the Local Development Plan, together with the false Labour Party election pledge, significantly helped Labour win those seats and, as a con-

## Turn-off for voters?

**BRIAN MORRIS'S bitter and hostile letter concerning the newly-formed Barry Voice group betrays the very reasons why people are increasingly put off from voting for the Labour Party he represents.**

Mr Morris incorrectly views Barry Voice as a threat to the Labour Party's grip on power.

However, the antipathy that he shows in his letter to such organisations does serve to expose an inherent unwillingness to deal with any independent

bodies which it can't control.

Though such a default position for the party machine is certainly an organisational strength, the moral weakness of such a tribal and paranoid stance is one that people in Barry should consider.

Indeed, there is evidence that they have already done so. Such negativity became a turn-off for voters in the Buttrills ward last August, and could be the reason why Mr Morris lost the election for Labour, having been defeated by Plaid Cymru's Dr Ian Johnson.

**Ian Lawton, Barry.**

sequence, gain control of the Vale Council.

I have previously responded to letters from some other Labour Party members about their attacks on FocusBARRY: at least the other parties know when to keep their heads down.

Mr Morris says that we should "stop pretending to be concerned citizens," but our concern for Barry is the reason we all came together in the first place.

When writing to the local papers, our supporters generally confirm their involvement with FocusBARRY, unlike Mr Morris who has chosen not to identify himself as a Labour Party member, a Labour Party candidate in the last council elections, and at the August by-election in Buttrills.

**Dennis Harkus, (Chair, FocusBARRY)**

## Showing true colours

**IN his letter to The GEM last week, Mr Brian Morris derided a gentleman 'for being defeated in Baruc ward in 2012' – and accused other organisations for apparently failing to show their 'true colours'.**

Speaking of honesty, is this the same Mr Morris who failed to mention that he, too, is a defeated candidate and a Labour Party representative – who lost last May, in the Court ward, to the very independent councillor he mentions in his letter?

Is this also the same Mr Morris, who, not content with losing just the one seat for Labour, went on to top this achievement in August, when he lost a second seat for them in even

more spectacular style, defeated this time by Plaid Cymru in the Buttrills ward by-election?

I think we should be told...  
**Ms Clare Tyne, Barry Island.**

## 'A GROUP, NOT A POLITICAL PARTY'

**I WOULD like to thank Mr Morris for his letter headlined 'True Colours' (The GEM, April 11), since it gives me an opportunity to clear up this '80s thinking that everyone has to have a political colour.**

Let's face it, political parties are past their sell-by date.

The party political machines in Barry are working hard to discredit FocusBARRY by peddling the myth that we are a political party, but the truth is rather different.

We are a community group with an interest in local politics, not a political party pretending to be interested in the local community.

**Jeffrey Heathfield, (FocusBARRY community group member).**

## 'NOT OPPOSED TO ANYONE'

**IN last week's GEM, Mr Brian Morris criticised those involved with a meeting of Barry Voice held on the Island; Mr Morris was not at the meeting and as a result is mistaken in his assumptions and rather unpleasant accusations.**

As an ordinary member of the public with no axe to grind, and who was actually there, I would like to set the record straight.

The meeting was very positive and upbeat and welcomed discussion regarding issues of importance to the community, whether cultural, social or political.

Whilst welcoming the support of any group or individual, Barry Voice also endorsed the actions of any persons working

for the benefit of the community.

They are certainly not set up in opposition to anyone, they are non-aligned politically and welcome participation from anyone.

All three Plaid Cymru councillors, Nic Hodges, Shirley Hodges and Steffan Wiliam were invited to attend the meeting as local ward councillors and were good enough to do so.

They showed great support and offered many ideas to the group. Only a few days earlier, the same Plaid councillors had helped organise a public meeting on the Island to discuss the regeneration proposals for the area.

Though it was a meeting they organised, invitations were generously extended by them to the local Labour AM and Conservative MP, as well as the Labour cabinet member for regeneration.

How refreshing it is to be served by party politicians who work inclusively with people for the good of the community. Other parties should take a leaf out of Plaid Cymru's book.

As well as thanking my local councillors for coming, I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the organisers, Coun Richard Bertin and Barrie Evans for an upbeat and inspiring meeting and I look forward to attending more around town.

**Ian Bailey, Barry.**

## Getting the facts right

**I READ with interest a letter from a Labour Party member attacking 'Barry Voice' in The GEM on April 11.**

Firstly, We have Labour, the Tories, Plaid Cymru – so what is the difference in having other groups in Barry?

Secondly, the Barry Voice meeting wasn't about party politics – it was, in fact, an informal public meeting discussing issues in our town.

Plaid made the effort to come along; it is a pity that he, as a Labour member, could not be bothered to come and meet real people who have real concerns.

But perhaps he is choosing to knock us instead, as he realises his party is causing most of

the concerns, such as the recent 4.8 per cent Vale Council tax hike.

Perhaps if he had run his letter past his leader, he would have been told not to get into an inaccurate tirade against the Barry citizens who just want good for their town.

For the record, I was not expelled: I in fact resigned, due to being bullied in the party, and the meeting was chaired by me, the man who won Court ward, and not the defeated man (as he puts it) from Baruc.

So I would suggest this man gets his facts right before attacking people fighting for a better town, many of whom are, or were, in fact Labour supporters! **Coun Richard Bertin, Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council.**

## What is a bully?

**HAVE you ever bullied? EyePAT CIC is looking for people who are bullying or have bullied (as an adult or as a child) and who will be willing to anonymously tell their story as to why and how they bullied.**

The bullying can have taken/be taking place anywhere e.g. school, workplace etc. It is the bully's story we are interested in and we know this is not an easy task.

We offer total confidentiality to anyone willing to help us by contributing their story.

No one is born a bully. It is a learned behaviour and there is

always a sad reason people have started bullying. The stories will be collated into a book, the purpose of which is to help people who are currently bullying, understand why they are doing it and so stop.

All names will be changed to protect people's identity.

This book will form part of the Happy Kids Don't Bully and Happy People Don't Bully anti-bullying workshops EyePAT run for both children and adults. This is a Not for Profit venture.

If you can help, contact penny@eyepat.org or call 01446 795055.

**Penny Steinhauer, Llantwit Major.**

# 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic

**NEXT month will see the marking of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.**

It was a battle lasting the length of the Second World War, pitting German U-Boats and other warships of the Kriegsmarine and aircraft of the Luftwaffe against our merchant life-line and our home and allied armed maritime fleets and forces.

Wales and the Welsh would again play a major part in conflict with Allied forces, in an attempt to prevent vital convoys from Canada reaching Britain and the Soviet Union. Wales had always maintained strong links with the sea. Nelson's fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar had sailors from every Welsh county in its ranks.

South Wales historically would go on to see the growth of the coal trade in the 19th century, a plethora of shipping firms was quickly established in important ports like Cardiff and Barry.

By 1914, there were more than 120 separate shipping companies with their offices in Cardiff alone.

After the Great War and by the end of the 1930s, with further conflict looming closer, that figure had been reduced to just 77, but shipping still represented a major employer in Wales.

This meant that, once war returned to the world, the Welsh community of sailors was likely to be very hard hit again.

During the Second World War,

together with the other south Wales' ports, Barry was to play a vital role and its proportion of Merchant Navy fatalities per head of population compared with other similar-sized ports would become the highest in Britain.

Few families and homes were not affected by wartime loss of life in both Barry itself and much of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Fred Hortop, who died in 2006, spent more than five years compiling a detailed and unique roll of honour, in memory of the local Merchant Seamen who died during the 73 months of war at sea, from 1939 to 1945.

During the Second World War, nearly one third of the world's merchant shipping was British. Over 30,000 men from the Merchant Navy lost their lives between 1939 and 1945. More than 2,400 British ships were sunk.

The ships were crewed by sailors from all over the British Empire. The British MN officers may have worn uniforms very similar to those of the Royal Navy.

The ordinary sailors, however, had no uniform and when on leave in Britain they sometimes suffered taunts and abuse from civilians who mistakenly thought the crewmen were shirking their patriotic duty to enlist in the armed forces. To counter this, the crewmen were issued with an 'MN' Silver lapel badge to indi-

cate they were serving in the Merchant Navy. John Curtin, then wartime Prime Minister of Australia said of the merchant seaman: "Whenever you see a man in the street wearing the distinctive MN badge, raise your hat to him because without these gallant men the war would be lost".

HM King George VI said: "The task of the Merchant Navy is no less essential to the people's existence than that allotted to the Navy, Army and Air Force, and indeed, none of them would be able to operate without these brave men".

April 1943 saw some respite for the Allies, as the enemy was unable to maintain such a large presence in the Atlantic. Many of the Kriegsmarine boats heavily involved earlier during March had withdrawn for replenishing; nevertheless the vessels still operational in the month remained active. A particular shock at the end of April was the attack by U-515 on convoy TS.37, which saw the loss of four tankers in three minutes, and another three over the next six hours.

## Months of April 1940 – 45

The SS Harbledown was a British cargo steamer torpedoed on April 4, 1941, when en route for London in Convoy SC-26. She was sunk by German submarine U-94 South of Iceland whilst carrying a cargo of wheat: 16 of her crew perished, including Robert Baxter of Barry Dock,

Glamorgan.

Also on April 4, 1941, the MV *Conus* dispersed from convoy OB-304, was hit in the foreship by one G7e torpedo from U-97 and stopped southeast of Cape Farewell. The U-boat then fired its last two torpedoes. The tanker capsized and sank within 10 minutes after the third torpedo hit.

The master, all crew members and two gunners were lost, including William DE Thomas of Barry. The SS *Cyprian Prince* was a British Refrigerated cargo steamer; on April 6, 1941, she was bombed by German aircraft and beached near Salamis, at Piraeus, during the invasion of Greece.

The wreck was broken up in November 1945. A Barrian, Francis WG Garrett, was lost.

The *Empire Progress* was a British steamer tanker. On April 13, 1942, when en route from Glasgow for Tampa in ballast, she was torpedoed by German submarine U-402 and sunk; 12 crew, including William R Clement of Barry, were lost from a total of 40.

On April 16, 1942, U-81 spotted a tanker and one escort vessel off the coast of Lebanon and fired two torpedoes each at both ships.

*FFL Vikings* exploded and sank 23 miles from Beirut, after being hit by one torpedo. The *Caspia* was also hit with one torpedo in the bow. The tanker sank in flames 10 miles south of

Beirut. The master, 24 crew members including local man Francis L White and two gunners from the *Caspia* were lost. Ten crew members and one gunner were rescued.

On April 20, 1942, the unescorted ship *Harpagon* was torpedoed and sunk by U-109 about 150 miles north-west of Bermuda. The master, 34 crew members and six gunners were lost. Eight crew members were picked up by the Argentinian merchant *Rio Diamante* and landed at Buenos Aires. Tudor Howard Rees of Barry, is recorded to have died the day before.

On April 2, 1943 when south-east of Bermuda the *Melbourne Star* was sunk by the German submarine U-129, while sailing alone in darkness. Two torpedoes hit the ship and she sank almost immediately. Only four of the crew were eventually rescued, after being adrift on a raft for 38 days. William E Richards of Barry was among those lost.

The SS *Lancastrian Prince* was a British cargo steamer, which on April 11, 1943 was torpedoed by German submarine U-404 and sunk. The crew of 45 were lost, including Victor W Reynhart.

Ernest E Hartley of Barry is recorded as being lost on April 30, 1943 although his ship the *Port Victor* was torpedoed on May the 1st, north of the Azores by U-107 and lost with all aboard.

## Loss of Pay: sunk seamen.

*When a merchant ship was sunk, the seaman's pay stopped on the day of the sinking. He did not receive any more pay until he joined another ship. The seaman was given 30 days survivor's leave, dated from the day his ship was sunk. This leave was unpaid.*

*It only meant that he didn't have to report back to the pool for 30 days. If he spent 10 or 15 days in a lifeboat, or on a life raft, that time in the boat was counted as survivor's leave.*

*The rules were changed in May 1941, and sailors were to be paid until they got back to their signing-on port, but no one told the sailors.*

*In many cases, the pay to a seaman who lost his life was often stopped as soon as the ship was sunk. It could be three months or more before the widow received her widow's pension, and that was only one-third of the allowance she had received while her husband was alive and at sea.*

## Climax of the campaign (March 1943 – May 1943, 'Black May')

Allied losses in April were 64 ships totalling 345,000 long tons; 39 ships were lost in the Atlantic. The enemy lost 15 boats from all causes. However, the following May 1943 would see the strategic and tactical advantage swing to the Allies, where it remained for the rest of the campaign.

**JT GREENWAY**

# Ystradowen Point-to-Point has to cope with heavy rain on a 'spring' afternoon

RIDERS and spectators had to cope with persistent rain last Saturday (April 13) at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen.

In fact, as the afternoon progressed, the going changed from good to soft to heavy!

Waterproofs and umbrellas were the order of the day for spectators, and you had to feel sorry for the jockeys, with only their racing silks to keep the rain out!

Ogmore's Nick Williams rode a double for Luke Price with *Red Watch* in the Members' race and *Coosan Lad* in the Intermediate.

Bradley Gibbs, who won four times the previous week, had to be content with just one win this time.

Brian Lee's report on the day's racing can be found on page 36.



## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased

by contacting:

e-mail [ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk)

telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,  
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



ABOVE:  
A jockey parts company with his horse.

RIGHT:  
Keeping cheerful,  
despite the rain!

BELOW:  
The going gets  
softer...and softer...  
and softer!



## Who wants to build what, and where?

Mrs Catherine Theron –  
**Highcrest, Coed  
Masarnen, Colwinston** –  
Proposed single and  
two storey extension.  
Mr and Mrs Mike  
Evans – **Land to the  
rear of 11 Whitcliffe  
Drive, Penarth** –  
Proposed dwelling.  
Mr Andrew Thomas –  
**Barn to Upper House  
Farm, Port Road, East  
Aberthaw** –  
Conversion of a barn  
into a domestic property.  
Ms Anna Miller – **13  
Cardiff Road, Dinas  
Powys** – Single storey  
extension to rear.  
Sarah Linnard –  
**Colwinston House,  
Colwinston** – Fell pine.  
Davies Sutton  
Architecture – **St  
Illtud's Church,  
Church Lane,  
Llantwit Major** – Fell  
cypresses and yews.  
Mr David Richard  
Austin – **Pwll Arian,  
Ashhall Road,  
Ystradowen** – Building  
consisting of  
tractor/machinery store,  
two stables, tack room

and hay and feed store.  
Mr Thomas – **6 Heol  
Eryr Mor, Barry** –  
Rear conservatory.  
J V Tree Services –  
**Land at Coed Arthur,  
Llancarfan** – Planning  
application for the con-  
struction of new  
forestry track.  
Mrs Jacqueline Stevens  
– **Ashdene Manor,  
Bridgeman Road,  
Penarth** – Conversion  
of Ashdene Manor  
existing building into  
three apartments with  
extensions providing a  
further four apartments  
with associated appro-  
priate cycle and car  
parking and amenity  
spaces. Apartments all  
being two-bed with en-  
suite.  
Mr G Hopkins –  
**Byways, Church  
Close, Ogmore by Sea** –  
Commencement of  
building work relating  
to planning application  
2008/00019/FUL.  
Mr Allan Price – **43  
Brenig Close, Barry** –  
Single storey extension  
on rear elevation.



# COWBRIDGE RIDER'S SUCCESS AT YSTRADOWEN POINT-TO-POINT

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased  
by contacting:

e-mail [ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk)  
telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,  
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

COWBRIDGE'S Byron Moorcroft, aged 24, who chalked-up 24 wins under rules when riding as a conditional jockey, had his first win as an owner and trainer when landing the confined race on Arguidos, at the recent Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases in Ystradowen.

Arguidos, who was bought in Ireland last August, took up the running in the closing stages to win by four lengths from the odds-on Yetholm partnered by Ogmore's Nick Williams.

Moorcroft, who set up his own training yard last September, was full of praise for his neighbour Gordon Lewis who has fully supported him in his endeavours.

The day's riding honours however went to Bradley Gibbs who was successful on Augustus Gibbons (members), Ben's Folly (walk over in men's open), Knight Blaze(restricted) and Orissan Jim (young horse maiden).

Bradley, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, is making a bold bid for the Welsh riders' championship and we will be hearing a lot more from this promising young rider who will be celebrating his 19th birthday on May 5.

Jenna Day's What An Article, partnered by Nick Williams, outjumped his three rivals to win the aged maiden race by three lengths from Gibbs's mount Winds Of War.

What An Article's trainer Luke Price said: "He likes this ground and he could go for the Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow later this month."

This Saturday, the Ystrad Taf Fechan are holding their point-to-point steeplechases over the same Ystradowen racecourse and racing gets under way at 2pm.

Report by BRIAN LEE



ABOVE and LEFT: some of the action from the Ystradowen point-to-point.



## HOW DOES YOUR HOME ENERGY RATE?

**W**HAT is an energy performance certificate? What are the codes that you see showing on estate agents adverts?

This document is valid for 10 years and shows how good – or bad – the energy efficiency of your property is.

It grades the property's energy efficiency from A to G, with A being the highest rating.

If you have a brand new home it's likely to have a high rating; if you have a second-hand home it's likely to be around D or E.

The energy performance certificate also lists ways to improve

the rating - such as installing double glazing or loft, floor or wall insulation.

The theory is that the better the rating your property gets, the more attractive it should be to a tenant or seller as it indicates lower energy bills.

You will now see estate agents' property adverts are now showing ER = 69 or D69 on their advert; this is the energy rating showing how efficient the property is and how you can upgrade the property to make it more energy efficient and how you can save money on your heating bills each month.

NINA CHIVERS

## VALE GIRLS GO FOOTBALL CRAZY!

**Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club, which launched in the summer of 2012, has already become one of the largest female-only clubs in south Wales, having created extensive links with local schools in all areas across the Vale of Glamorgan.**

Currently with five teams and 85 players competing in the South Wales Girls League, the club is growing on a weekly basis, as new players are getting inspired to take up the sport.

As well as running existing teams, the club has been very proactive in providing opportunities for girls to experience football through school programmes and festivals.

With sport development support from Sport Wales, including funding from two Community Chest grants, the club has been able to position itself at the forefront of the female game in Wales.

Sport Wales Manager, Tom Overton said: "Although this is a relatively new addition to the community, the challenge to get more girls introduced to sport at a young age is something which has been embraced by Vale Ladies and Girls Football Club.

"We know from our research, that women and girls are dropping out of sport, the situation is not unique to Wales, but it's one that we at Sport Wales and our partners are determined to address.

"It is excellent to see that clubs such as Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club are increasing female membership, it's a great example to follow. It would be fantastic if these opportunities for girls became the norm in every community."

Since November 2012, the club has run the first Girls Football Primary School League, which brings 15 teams from 12 schools in the area together on a fortnightly basis to play regular

friendly matches.

Club chairman Luke Williams commented: "The club has successfully created links with over 25 schools in the local area as we see this as a fundamental area for the future growth of the game.

"Girl's football is becoming more and more popular and the creation of the school league and festivals that we host provide opportunities for girls to experience football in a fun and friendly environment."

"We offer football for girls aged 7-16 and from September we will be launching our first ladies team creating a pathway for players to continue playing into their adult life.

"We cater for all abilities so come and give it a go!"

Anyone interested in becoming a member, can visit the club's website: [www.valegirlsfc.co.uk](http://www.valegirlsfc.co.uk) or email: [info@valegirlsfc.co.uk](mailto:info@valegirlsfc.co.uk).





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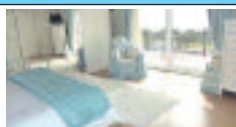
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**MARINE DRIVE, BARRY**

Imposing extended detached dwelling. Showhome presented. Panoramic sea views - beach and sea views. Study, living/dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, wc cloakroom, shower room/wc. Four bedrooms (master ensuite) Balcony with far reaching sea views. Approved full planning consent for extension. Spacious living. ER=E

**£469,950****THE PASTURES, BARRY**

End of terrace. In need of some updating. Porch, living room, kitchen/breakfast, conservatory. Two bedrooms, side and rear garden. Detached garage/Parking. ER=D

**£92,950****ETON STREET, BARRY**

Bay fronted, mid terrace traditional. Two reception rooms, three bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, level enclosed garden. Lane access. Gas CH via combi. Walks to Porthkerry & beaches. No chain. ER=D

**£145,950****AEL Y COED, BARRY**

Four bedrooms. Modern detached. Living/dining room. Sitting room (converted garage). Master ensuite. Utility room, wc, cloak. Driveway/enclosed garden. No chain. ER=D

**£224,950****SEA LAWNS, BARRY**

Well presented. Spacious living room. 1st floor. Open balcony with far reaching sea views. Modern fitted kitchen. Fitted bathroom, garage/parking. ER=B

**£149,950****WESTWARD RISE, BARRY**

Spacious modern detached. Living room, dining room, separate study, wc cloak, conservatory. Four bedrooms (master ensuite). Family bathroom/shower room. Double garage/electric door. Minutes walk to Porthcerry Park. ER=C

**£344,950****HOWARD COURT, BARRY**

Well presented. Two double bedrooms. 2nd floor apartment. Living room overlooking Pontypridd Road. Modern fitted kitchen. Gas CH and upvc DG. Garage and ample parking. ER=D

**£92,500****CANON STREET, BARRY**

Victorian mid terrace traditional dwelling. No chain - vacant possession. Through lounge. Kitchen/dining room, three double bedrooms. Attic/hobby area to 2nd floor. Velux window to front. ER=D

**£167,000****GREENACRES, BARRY**

Well presented. End of link. Modern fitted kitchen. Luxury bathroom. Two double bedrooms. Through living room. Driveway/parking. Enclosed private parking. ER=C

**£124,950****BRON AWELON, BARRY**

Four double bedrooms. Sitting room. Living/dining room. Conservatory. Spacious kitchen. Bathroom and shower room. South facing garden - sea views. No chain/ Parking to front. Walk to beaches. ER=D

**£239,950****CHURCHFIELDS, BARRY**

Modern semi detached. Kitchen to front. WC cloakroom. Living room, two double bedrooms. Designated parking. Enclosed level garden. No chain. Cul de sac position. ER=D

**£124,950****GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY**

Two bedrooms. Living room, fitted kitchen/breakfast. Gas CH via combi boiler. Parking/driveway. Enclosed rear garden. No chain.

**£99,950****LALESTON CLOSE, BARRY**

Spacious living. End of terrace, three double bedrooms. Gas CH via combi. upvc DG. Living room/dining room. Enclosed rear garden. Ample parking. (Tenants present would like to remain).

**£79,950****WINDSOR ROAD, BARRY**

Six bedrooms. Living room, dining room, original features throughout. Kitchen/ breakfast room, utility room, wc, cloak. Viewing essential. West End location. ER=E

**£204,950****ST NICHOLAS ROAD, BARRY**

Victorian semi. Ideal family home. 'West End' location. Two rec rooms, modern fitted kitchen. Three storey. Four bedrooms on 1st floor. Three bedrooms on 2nd floor. Enclosed rear garden. Lane access. Driveway providing parking. ER=F

**£234,950****ST OSYTH COURT, BARRY**

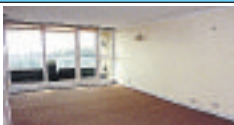
Lower ground floor. Two bedroomed. Far reaching views. Balcony. Replacement shower room. Modern fitted kitchen. Combination boiler. Extended lease. 999 years. ER=C

**£159,950****TY CWMPLAS, BARRY**

Second floor apartment. One bedroomed. Living/open plan kitchen. Balcony overlooking rear. Family bathroom. Designated parking. maintenance free living. ER=C

**£79,950****ST OSYTH COURT, BARRY**

Recently decorated throughout. Brand new fitted carpets. Apartment block with lift. Two bedroomed. Far reaching sea views. Balcony. Replacement bathroom. Replacement boiler via combi. Modern fitted kitchen. upvc DG throughout. Extended lease 999 years. No chain. ER=C

**£162,500****NEWGALE CLOSE, BARRY**

Three bedroomed. Modern semi detached. Living room, dining room, conservatory. Enclosed garden. Side access. longer than average garden. ER=C

**£124,950****LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY**

Well presented. Three bedrooms. Modern semi detached. Living room, kitchen/diner. Driveway/garage. Enclosed level garden. Viewing highly recommended. ER=D

**£124,950****RHEIDOL DRIVE, BARRY**

Spacious detached. Living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast. WC cloakroom. Four bedrooms (master ensuite). Replacement family bathroom. Double garage/driveway. Corner cul de sac position. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. West End location. ER=C

**£304,950****PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY**

Three bedrooms. End of terraced traditional. Through living room. Kitchen/diner. First floor bathroom. level enclosed garden. Rear access. ER=E

**£114,950****MOUNTBATTEN ROAD, BARRY**

Modern mid terrace. Living/dining room. WC cloakroom. Fitted kitchen. Two designated parking spaces. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. ER=C

**£116,000****ST LYTHANS ROAD, BARRY**

Four bedroomed. Detached. Cul de sac position. living room, dining room, open plan kitchen/sitting area. Master ensuite. Enclosed garden. Driveway/garage. ER=D

**£239,950****DOBBINS ROAD, BARRY**

In need of modernisation. Situated on enviable plot. Room to extend (subject to planning consent). Three bedrooms. Two reception rooms. upvc throughout. No chain. ER=F

**£124,950****PONTYPRIDD STREET, BARRY**

Spacious living. Semi detached. 25ft living room. 34ft Garage/workshop accessible from inside. Replacement kitchen/bathroom. Well presented throughout. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain. ER=D

**£139,950****JEWEL STREET, BARRY**

Three storey mid terrace. Option of converting basement rooms. To the ground floor: Two reception rooms and kitchen. To the lower ground floor: Basement rooms. To the 2nd floor: Three bedrooms, family bathroom. ER=D

**£119,950****HEOL BROADLANDS, BARRY**

Corner positioned. Three bedrooms. Modern detached. Living room. Kitchen/diner. Enclosed garden. Side access - garage. ER=C

**£174,950****BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY**

Well presented. Two bedrooms. Ground floor garden apartment. Living room. Recently fitted kitchen. Gas CH. upvc DG. Viewing essential. ER=D

**£89,950****COLLARD CRESCENT, BARRY**

Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Living room, dining room. WC cloakroom. Driveway/garage. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Ideal family home. ER=D

**£144,950****GLAN HAFREN, BARRY**

Two double bedrooms. Panoramic sea views. Garage/ample parking. View from every room. Beach front apartment. Situated on ground floor. ER=D

**£179,950****LAKIN DRIVE, BARRY**

Modern detached. Five bedrooms. Spacious family home. Two reception rooms. Kitchen/ diner - integrated appliances. Offered with no chain. Driveway/garage. Views overlooking the Vale. ER=D

**£299,950****AMHERST CRESCENT, BARRY**

Ground floor apartment. 1 double bedroom. Fitted kitchen/integrated Smeg appliances. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH. Security door entry system. Minutes walk to beaches. Ideal first time buy. Lane access. ER=D

**£69,950****GIBBONSDOWN CLOSE, BARRY**

Three bedrooms. Corner semi detached. Corner position. Living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, garage/parking. Cul de sac position. ER=E

**£124,950****MILTON ROAD, BARRY**

Stunning mid terrace. Two bedrooms. Living room, kitchen/diner. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Option of off road parking. (subject to usual planning consent). ER=D

**£94,950****PARK ROAD, BARRY**

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**£139,950****MARLOES CLOSE, BARRY**

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 24 April 2013



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 or Newydd Housing Association  
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

Vale of Glamorgan Council 
 Newydd Housing Association 
 Penarth Housing Association 
 Llanelli Housing Association 
 Porth and Porthcawl Housing Association

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 • Gardens  
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 • Gardens  
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 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55  
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**DUNLIN COURT, BARRY**

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 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement  
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 • Double glazing  
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 • Gardens  
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 • Double-glazing  
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 • Scheme Manager and alarm  
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 • Double glazing  
 • Scheme Manager and alarm  
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 • Central heating  
 • Double-glazing  
 • Gardens  
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 • Central heating  
 • Double-glazing  
 • Gardens  
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**NORTH WALK, BARRY**

H4U Reference 217940  
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement  
 • Three-bedroom flat  
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 • Central heating  
 • Double-glazing  
 • Communal gardens  
 Rent £99.16 per week including water charges

**PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY ISLAND**

H4U reference 1028137  
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55  
 • Two-bedroom flat  
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 • Gas central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Parking and garden  
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**PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY ISLAND**

H4U reference 1101899  
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55  
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 • First floor  
 • Gas central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Parking and garden  
 Rent £82.87 per week including service charge

**QUEENS ROAD, PENARTH**

H4U reference 242942  
 Suitable for a single person or couple  
 • One-bedroom flat  
 • Upstairs  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 Rent £83.85 per week including water charges

**RHUDDLAN WAY, DINAS POWYS**

H4U Reference 110035  
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement  
 • Three-bedroom house  
 • Central heating  
 • Double-glazing  
 • Gardens  
 Rent £97.07 per week

**SHELLEY CRESCENT, BARRY**

H4U Reference 223347  
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement  
 • Two-bedroom house  
 • Central heating  
 • Double-glazing  
 • Gardens  
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**STRATFORD GREEN, BARRY**

H4U Reference 225492  
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement  
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 • Double-glazing  
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H4U Reference 226554  
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement  
 • Two-bedroom flat  
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 • Double-glazing  
 • Communal gardens  
 Rent £80.53 per week including water charges

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

**Important information for existing and new council tenants**

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.



# BRIDGEND SPORTS UNDER-16s LAND CHALLENGE CUP



## Girls are not stumped by cricket tournament!



ABOVE: Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen's winning girls' team celebrate their win.

**GIRLS** from six Bridgend county borough comprehensive schools have been bowled over at an indoor cricket tournament.

The Lady Taversners under-13 girls' cricket competition, organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's active young people department and Cricket Wales, featured almost 100 girls taking to the crease at Maesteg Sports Centre.

Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen's team left the opposition stumped as they battled and fielded their way to the final, where they slipped past St Clare's team to claim the title.

The finalists will now go on to represent the county borough at the national finals being held at the Swalec Stadium, Cardiff on April 22, which will include the teams receiving a coaching session from England women's cricket captain, Charlotte Edwards.

The girls who took part at the tournament will now enjoy a six-week coaching programme delivered by the active young people department,

Cricket Wales and Bridgend Town Cricket Club, before forming the county borough's first competitive girls' cricket team for a number of years.

Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Boys and girls should have equal access to all sports, so it's fantastic that the girls are being introduced to cricket."

"It's great that the active young people department is working with its partners to create a girls' team, as girls haven't been able to play competitive cricket in the county borough for a few years now."

"Learning from Charlotte Edwards is a brilliant opportunity for the girls from Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and St Clare's. I'm sure it will help them hit the opposition for six at the national finals."

## A TRIUMPH FOR EXPERIENCE AT BRIDGE CLUB



Club president Bill Turner congratulating the winners

**ONE** of Bridgend Bridge Club's premier events, the Max Powell Rose Bowl, was recently won by two of the club's oldest members.

Mildred Trigg-Knight will be celebrating her 98th birthday later this year and she was partnered by John Moore, who will soon be turning 90.

With a combined age of 186, this was a remarkable triumph for the pair, particularly as they were up against a strong field, which contained grandmasters and international players.

Mildred has been playing Bridge for over 80 years, while John is a relative newcomer, with only 25 years under his belt.

In terms of club seniority, however, Mildred has to give ground to another long-standing member, Sheila Storer, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday in the summer and is still playing Bridge to a good standard several times a week.

This result illustrates how Bridge not only provides a pleasant, social pastime for card players of all ages, but also that it enables our senior citizens to compete successfully with

much younger players.

The Bridgend club meets on Wednesdays and Fridays at 7pm in Noltan Church Hall in Bridgend, and has now started a Thursday afternoon session (2pm - 5pm) at the same venue for those who wish to develop their play with supervision and advice.

There are no formal lessons as such at present, but, if there were sufficient demand, the club would resume courses for complete beginners.

For further information, phone Steve Burgoine on 01656 661968, or David Newman on 01656 649138.

**BRIDGEND Sports under-16s played Neath Athletic at The Gnoll on Sunday, April 14 in the Ospreys Challenge Cup final.**

The game ended Bridgend Sports 46, Neath Athletic 5 and the Bridgend Sports squad were presented with the winners trophy by the Ospreys (pictured above).

**Squad:** Nick Costa (prop) Brynteg Comprehensive School, Nick Slade (prop) Brynteg CS, Rob Slade (prop) Brynteg CS, Nathan Purnell (prop) Brynteg CS, Will Jehu (hooker) Brynteg CS, Jake Furness (hooker) Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Cai Allin (second row) Cowbridge

Comprehensive School, Isaac Rapley (second row) Brynteg CS, Dewi Rees (second row) Brynteg CS, Gethin Massjuk (second row) Brynteg CS, Lloyd Williams (back row) Brynteg CS, Rhys Bishop (back row) Brynteg CS, Andy Gill (back row) Brynteg CS, Niall Murphy (back row) Brynteg CS, Scott Callicot (scrum half) Brynteg CS, Josh Bogue (outside half) Brynteg CS, Callum Griffiths (centre/outside half) Brynteg CS, Sean Willcox (centre) Brynteg CS, Owen James (wing) Brynteg CS, Alex Stanton (wing) Brynteg CS, Dan Donnelly (full back) Brynteg CS, Liam Bevan (wing) Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Brynteg CS, Joey Hapgood (wing) Archbishop McGrath CS.

## Bad neck injury mars under-16s' rugby game

**PENCOED under-16s went up against Glamorgan Wanderers on Sunday with a 14 man squad, as some of the boys were chosen to play for the boys club of Wales and were over in Holland for a tour match.**

The game started off quickly, and both teams were in it to win it.

Pencoed were able to keep the Wanderers off the tryline and Aled Bargery was able to take Pencoed's first try of the day.

Wanderers came back strong, but Pencoed's Dylan Winn-Davies was

able to get past their defence for a second try.

Wanderers didn't give up and battled hard, but Daniel Maiden was able to push pass the front to score another try for Pencoed.

After half time, Wanderers continued to try their best, but Pencoed came on strong and Aled Bargery was able to beat the defence and score his second try of the day. This was followed by a conversion from Lewis Brennan.

With good hands from the back, Jordan Fox was able to run past the Wanderers' try line for another try, which was converted by Scott Ewing. This try was followed by another from

Dylan Winn-Davies.

The game was called off after Pencoed's Ellis Griffiths suffered a neck injury and had to be carried off the field for hospital treatment.

We would like to wish Ellis a speedy recovery from Pencoed and Glamorgan Wanderers' players and staff.

**Squad:** James Merchant, Jamie Dyer, Lloyd Webb (captain), Patrick Canham, Daniel Maiden, Dylan Winn-Davies, Lewis Brennan, Aled Bargery, Scott Ewing, Ellis Griffiths, Josh Maunders, Jordan Fox, Matthew Ellis and Shane Lee.

JM

## PENCOED RFC GRIND OUT WIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

More pressure from the Pencoed pack saw Davies add a further penalty and Pencoed led 0-16 at the break after dominating most of the opening forty.

The second half was in complete contrast with Celtic territorially on top having made some changes. Home outside half Luke Richards kicked two early penalties and suddenly it was game on.

With centre Healey posing problems for Pencoed with his direct approach, the visitors were coming under increasing pressure, but there surfaced a steely resolve within their ranks which surpassed anything seen this season from the red, white and blues, to a man the defensive commitment was superb.

With 20 minutes left on the clock the alarm bells rang with Pencoed's Macfarlane picking up a yellow card. Pencoed's depleted scrum held firm at a vital scrum metres from their line, before their problems were compounded; no sooner had Macfarlane returned to the action than they lost their other second row John simultaneously with a second yellow.

This effectively meant Pencoed were down to 14 men for the last

twenty minutes, but incredibly they denied Celtic with admirable commitment.

There was more drama to come, Pencoed reduced to 13 players with openside Curtis Williams unlucky picking up his sides third yellow card, but Pencoed somehow continued to frustrate the home side with their outstanding defensive effort in adversity, and the whistle sounded for a jubilant Pencoed camp, man of the match Gareth Prentice, among others, clearly showing what this superb 16-6 victory meant to him.

On Saturday Pencoed entertain league leaders Trebanos and on this performance need not fear any of the top three on the run in.

TR

**CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!**

We welcome your reports, news and other items of interest - email [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)



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## Family Notices

### PIKE Colin John

Peacefully at home on April 11th with his loving family at his side Colin, aged 73 years of Barry, also formerly of Cardiff. Cherished Husband and soul mate of Elaine, very much loved Dad to Julie and Piero, also much loved and respected Dad to Nicola and Gareth. Dearly loved Grandpa to Miriam and Jean-Luc and devoted Bampy to Olivia and Brandon. Colin will be dearly missed by all his family, friends and his extended Aikido family. Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his Service to celebrate his life at Barry Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry on Wednesday 24th April, 2013 at 10:45am followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home by 9am, donations, if desired, to Cancer Research Wales may be sent to the funeral home or at [www.justgiving.com/ColinPike](http://www.justgiving.com/ColinPike) in memory of Colin. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Nicola Ellis, The Vale Funeral Service Tel 01446 407962.

### McFADYEN Joan

**Formerly of Llantwit Major**  
Peacefully with her family by her side, Joan, wife of the late Pat, much loved mum, nan, great nana and great great nanny.  
Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 26th April 2013 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers made payable to East Vale First Responders c/o Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

### PEMBER Margaret

In memory of my beloved wife Margaret I thank everyone who helped her in Milsom House Nursing Home and in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Sincere thanks to the Vicar, to those who attended the funeral and to W James & Sons Funeral Directors. *Alun.*

### MILES Alan

Suddenly but peacefully on 10 April 2013. Beloved husband of Marie, loving father and father-in-law of Colin and Janet, Sue and Mark, John and Amber. Much loved dad and granddad of Hannah, Reuben, Lauren and Luke. Will be much missed and never forgotten.  
Funeral Service will be held at Margam Crematorium on Thursday, 25 April at 2pm.  
Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the RNLI and Help for Heroes, c/o Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major.

### JONES (nee Watts) Phoebe May

The family would like to thank everyone who attended the recent funeral of Phoebe May Jones, also the many messages of sympathy and flowers received. It was a beautiful heartfelt service, conducted by the very gracious Reverend Robert Evans.

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### LEADER George

Peacefully on April 13 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, George aged 92 years, of St Athan, beloved husband of Della, dearly loved father of Brian and the late Allan, grandfather of all his grandchildren.  
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Wednesday, April 24, service and cremation 3.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

### JOHNSON Doris Rose

Doris Rose Johnson passed away suddenly, but peacefully on 28th March. Friends of Doris are welcome to attend her funeral service, which will be held at 11am, St Martins Church, Caerphilly. Thornhill Crematorium at 12:30 and wake to be held afterwards at Ffonyn Wen, Thornhill on 26th April.

### House Clearance


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## Birthdays

**Happy 103rd Birthday**  
on 21 April 2013



**Dorothy Ward**  
We would like to wish an amazing lady and a very dear friend Happy Birthday.  
Love from Carol & family xxx

**Happy 16th Birthday LUCY MILLS**  
on 19th April  
Lots of love, Mum, Charlotte, Grandma and Grandad  
xxx



**Happy 7th Birthday ELLIE**  
Lots of love Mummy & Daddy, Debbie & Simon & Pookie the cat.  
Matthew, Lynsey & Erin xxx



## Thank You

### THANK YOU

**SUE CURTIS**  
would like to thank all her family and friends for making her 60th Birthday Party so special.

## Property

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## Public Notice

**HYSBYSIAD CADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS**  
**ADRIAN 257 A PHARAGRAFF 7 ATODLEN 14 DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF 1990**  
**CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 6 PENARTH) GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2013**

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**  
**SECTION 257**  
**AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14**  
**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 6 PENARTH) DIVERSION ORDER 2013**

Ar 5 Ebrill 2013, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod.  
Eithaf y Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd fydd gwyro'r lwybr cyhoeddus yn y modd a weir yn map y Gorchymyn.  
Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn hwn a'r map perthnasoedd i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Dociau, Heol yr Iffordd, Y Barri rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm yn ystod yr wythnos o 18 Ebrill 2013 hyd 30 Mai 2013. Mae copïau o'r Gorchymyn ar werth yma am £4.50 yr un.  
Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 18 Ebrill 2013. Serch hynny, os tybwyd i chi gael cars, ac yr hoffech ddechrau eithaf dilynwyd y Gorchymyn neu un o'i ddiarpariaethau am nad ydych chi gael gryn y Ddeddf uchod, neu am na chydymffurfio â gofynion new reolau'r Ddeddf wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, cewch wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r ddiwedd hwnnw o dan Adran 257, Deddf Cyfllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990. Dylech wneud eithaf cais yn unol â pharagraff 7 Atodlen 14 y Ddeddf honno, cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r Hysbysiad am y tro cyntaf.  
Dyddiedig 18 Ebrill 2013  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Swyddiedig y Doc, Heol yr Iffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

On the 5 April 2013 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order.  
The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as shown on the Order map.  
A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 18 April 2013 until 30 May 2013. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.  
This Order comes into force on the 18 April 2013 but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under Section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which Notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.  
Dated this 18th day of April 2013  
Director of Development Services  
Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

**HYSBYSIAD CADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS**  
**DEDDDF PRIFYRDD 1980**  
**CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 11 LLWYNEUDDON GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2012)**

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER**  
**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**  
**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 11 ST LYTHANS PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2012)**

Ar 5 Ebrill 2013, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd o dan Adran 119 Deddf Prifffydd 1980.  
Eithaf y Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd fydd gwyro'r lwybr cyhoeddus yn y modd a weir yn map y Gorchymyn.  
Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn hwn a'r map perthnasoedd i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn y cyfeirnod isod rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm yn ystod yr wythnos o 18 Ebrill 2013 hyd 30 Mai 2013. Mae copïau o'r Gorchymyn a'r map ar werth yma am £4.50 yr un.  
Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 18 Ebrill 2013. Serch hynny, os tybwyd i chi gael cars, ac yr hoffech ddechrau eithaf dilynwyd y Gorchymyn neu un o'i ddiarpariaethau am nad ydych chi gael gryn y Ddeddf uchod, neu am na chydymffurfio â gofynion new reolau'r Ddeddf wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, cewch wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r ddiwedd hwnnw o dan baragraff 2 Atodlen 2 y Ddeddf fel y'i gwethredir gan baragraff 5 Atodlen 6. Dylech wneud eithaf cais cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl cyhoeddi'r Hysbysiad am y tro cyntaf.  
Dyddiedig 18 Ebrill 2013  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Swyddiedig y Doc, Heol yr Iffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

On the 5 April 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.  
The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown on the Order map.  
A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map have been placed and may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 18 April 2013 until 30 May 2013. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.  
This Order comes into force on the 18 April 2013, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice is first published make an application to the High Court.  
Dated this 18 April 2013  
Director of Development Services  
Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

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# CRICKET CLUBS URGED: 'APPLY FOR £1,000 SWALEC FUNDING'

LOCAL cricket clubs are being urged to apply to the SWALEC Community Development Fund, for £10,000 of funding to put towards new equipment, kit or facilities for the 2013 season.

The fund was launched at a tournament and coaching session for junior players at the SWALEC Stadium last week.

A spokeswoman explained: "The £10,000 SWALEC Community Development Fund, which was first introduced in 2011, provides matched funding for grassroots cricket clubs. In association with Cricket Wales and Glamorgan Cricket, it provides funds to support recreational crick-

et and help grow one of Wales's favourite national sports at a local level.

"Since the initiative launched in 2011, SWALEC has helped 32 clubs invest in everything from water-hogs and cover sheets to sight screens and score boxes."

The fund is open to any Welsh cricket club that is affiliated to Cricket Wales and the ECB and can be used either to purchase equipment or materials that support the playing of cricket or which will help reduce their operating costs.

Jonny Petrie, head of sponsorship at SWALEC, said: "When we launched the Community Development Fund three years ago, we made a long-term commitment to support Welsh cricket at a

grassroots level and encourage more people to get involved in this wonderful sport. We're delighted that the clubs have put their funds to such good use and hope to see many more benefiting from it this year".

Peter Hybart from Cricket Wales commented: "Grassroots cricket is at the centre of many communities in Wales and many people get a great deal of pleasure from both playing and watching it. This funding from SWALEC shows dedication to the sport at a local level and will hopefully help to keep it growing and attracting new players and followers".

All cricket clubs in Wales can apply for the fund by downloading an entry form at [www.glamorgancricket.com/swalecfund](http://www.glamorgancricket.com/swalecfund).

Completed forms should be submitted to Kerry.Lloyd@cricket-wales.org.uk or Peter Hybart, Cricket Wales, C/O Glamorgan Cricket Club, SWALEC Stadium, Cardiff, CF11 9XR.

The deadline for applications is May 17. All applications will be assessed by a judging panel who will then notify the club if successful.



ABOVE: Junior players at the SWALEC Stadium

## The Westend Ladies achieve promotion

WESTEND ladies A team have earned their place in next season's division 4 in the Cardiff League, by winning every one of their 18 games played.

They stormed the first half of the league not losing any games, displaying excellent netball skills and team work.

Although all teams in the league were of a very high standard, Llandaff and MJ Movers proved to be the most difficult opponents for the ladies with only a one goal win over Movers and three goal win over Llandaff.

However, Westend remained strong and positive taking both wins.

The second half of the season again saw Westend dominate the court. Both shooters were most definitely on form scoring the highest amount of goals in the league, with Kelly and Caryl displaying excellent passing within the circle allowing a good variety of both close and distance shooting.

Centre court players, Angharad, Stacey, Jenna and Sophie all displayed good team work ensuring a good flow of play, connecting the attack to the defence successfully.

There was outstanding feeding into the shooters, excellent defence and attacking play shown, with numerous players displaying their ability to be versatile playing in different positions to suit the game.

Defenders Lil and Louise again performed to a high standard making scoring goals very difficult for the opponents. Both players were consistent and strong, often having to switch positions tactically to suit the game, again conceding few goals and displaying good discipline within the shooting circle.

With just two games left to play in the league, Westend came across their two most difficult opponents once again,

Llandaff and MJ Movers. Westend beat Llandaff 29-22, which meant the title was won by the Westend Ladies, and then beat MJ Movers 25-21, securing a 100 per cent successful season for Westend resulting in their third consecutive promotion.

A huge well done to the team and coach - Kelly Richardson, Caryl Jenkins, Angharad Jenkins (captain) Stacey Brown, Sophie Palmer, Jenna Webb, Leigh-Anne Jones (coach and player) and Louise Laity.

Also a big thank you to our B team players who have played up on occasions to ensure a full team of players and played brilliantly as part of the team - Nina Jones, Siobhan Griffiths and Abi Ladner. KR

## John to train future Special Olympians

AFTER the success of the London Olympic Games last year, all eyes are now focused on Brazil in 2016 where golf will be on the curriculum for the first time.

However, in only two years time, another event will capture the imagination of millions of sporting fans - when the Special Olympics take place in Los Angeles, U.S.A.

The games, which originated in the 1960s, are for athletes with disabilities such as Autism, Down Syndrome, Aspergers, varying forms of blindness and many other forms of learning difficulties.

From its humble beginnings, the Special Olympics now have competitors from over 150 countries.

After being approached by Golf Disability Wales last year, which involved coaching sessions for pupils from special needs schools, a professional, John Hastings, has now been offered the opportunity to get

involved with the Special Olympic coaching scheme with weekly sessions to start next month over a 10 week period.

The St Andrews Major professional will be responsible for a select group of players whose aim will be to gain a greater knowledge of the game as well as giving each individual a greater sense of self worth, confidence and achievement.

With Golf Development Wales offering financial support for this new venture, the immediate future looks promising, although fundraising events will (hopefully) raise additional money to enable competitors to benefit to a greater extent.

Chairman of Special Olympics Wales, Jeff Vickerey, hopes that from the coaching sessions one or two players will emerge who could go all the way to Los Angeles in 2015 to represent the Great Britain side.

## Atoms explode against Llantwit

BARRY Atoms entertained Llantwit Major in an enthralling game that seemed to have it all.

From the backs right through to the forwards there seemed to be a freeness in the Atoms' play and we were knocking on the door early but fantastic defence kept Llantwit from scoring a breakaway try, and this seemed to be the blueprint for the rest of game.

The only try came from D Griffiths, who went over; this was converted by Z Fifield for a final score of 7-0 to the Atoms.

DD



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## Morgan (aged 11) plays for Cardiff against Malaysia!

Three cheers for Cardiff!



PICTURED (centre) is 11-year-old goalkeeper Morgan Davenport, from Rhoose, who recently represented Cardiff City FC advanced development centre in a match against Astro Kem Bola IMCC (Malaysia Cardiff City). Astro Kem Bola are made up

of some of the best players of their age group in Malaysia, who are also coached by Cardiff City coaches based there.

The match was played at the Leckwith ADC centre and the game was also beamed to Astro Malaysian TV.

Morgan said: "It was a fantastic experience and the Malaysian team were a really great group of talented players

who appreciated the opportunity of coming to the UK and playing in Wales.

Morgan, who attends Sir Richard Gwyn High School in Barry, also plays for Barry Town under-12s, who beat Cogan 2-0 in the 2013 Vale under-12 cup semi-final.

**T**HERE is a fundamental difference between men and women, aside from the obvious, of course – it is that both view cars in completely contrasting ways.

Where lads have memories like Top Trumps cards, easily reciting top speeds and power, girls remember the size and colour.

This becomes even clearer when I drive the Subaru WRX STI to the office: "Nice red car and I like the black alloys," says a young female colleague.

"Bet it's a 2.5-litre with 300bhp," adds the warehouse manager.

I rest my case. It's interesting that women seem much more interested in aesthetics. And they say men are shallow!

On that point of design, the macho bulges such as the bulbous air vent protruding from the bonnet and the flared wheel arches are reminiscent of a body-builder's flexed muscles.

This is a far more obvious muscle car than the Volvo S60 T6, which boasts similar performance but in a more understated package.

The WRX feels like a motorist's protection. Nobody is going to mess with you. This vehicle doesn't need to be driven fast to be appreciated, either.

Once you've stopped gawping at the dazzling exterior, the hard Recaro leather sports seats beckon. It's a comfortable cabin, quite

### MOTORING with Tim Saunders



THE SUBARU WRX.

low down and wife Caroline mentions how front occupants have to be slim to be comfortable; too much weight and the Recaro seats would not hug so well.

At work the warehouse manager confirms this point, recalling how his mother could not sit comfortably in the family's old Impreza and that was the reason it had to be sold.

The Impreza became famous when Colin McRae won the world rally championship in 1995. The WRX builds on the Impreza's successes – it is most definitely a young man's car, which becomes clear on pressing the ignition switch. There's a roar from the twin double exhausts not dissimilar to those magnificent Maseratis. It is a dominant sound, which certainly adds to the sporty feel and is something that enthusiasts will enjoy listening to instead of the radio.

Moving off, it takes a little while to familiarise myself with the clutch, which doesn't need to rise much for a gear change. The six-speed box is slick as you would expect.

It features SI-Drive (Subaru Intelligent Drive) that has three

modes. The Sport Sharp is the most responsive and this is the mode for demanding driving, quite literally pushing occupants back into their seats.

Sport makes the car a little less sharp while intelligent mode is for more restrained driving. In this mode the Boxer engine is docile and lethargic; I certainly prefer the Sport Sharp, which sees this brute shoot from 0 to 60mph in just 5.2secs and onto 158mph.

All wheel drive is a definite reassurance and provides excellent road holding; as is the way with all performance

cars the fuel gauge plummets during demanding driving but it returns a reasonable 30 to 35mpg during a more relaxed motorway run. The handbrake close to the driver's left hand side takes a little getting used to but it is actually a helpful position giving added control for hill starts.

The WRX STI, which surprisingly sells for under £30,000, is not just a performance car but a practical family saloon as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz. There is room for five, and daughters Harriett and Heidi sit quite comfortably in their car seats in the rear. Childlock is easy enough to engage, and the boot is large enough for the weekly shop.

New price: £26,995.  
Engine: 2.5 litre 16 valve.

Power: 295bhp.  
0-60mph: 5.2secs.  
Top speed: 158mph.  
Economy: 26.9mpg.  
Watch the video at [www.testdrives.biz](http://www.testdrives.biz).

## JAMES TUDOR WINS AREA CLASSIC RACE

JAMES TUDOR, assistant trainer to Llancarfan's Evan Williams, riding Mrs Jodie Pearn's nine-year-old Floridahl, landed the John Lovell Memorial Men's Open Race – which is the £1,000 South Wales Area Classic race – at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen, where persistent rain throughout the afternoon changed the going from good to soft to heavy, by the time the last race had been run.

Florida Hall soon had his six rivals trailing in his wake and he romped home a distance ahead of Young Albert (Kris Hamner) with last year's winner Midnight Diamond (Matthew Barber) a further distance away in third place.

The favourite My Fella was pulled up three fences from the finish.

Mrs Pearn was full of

praise for trainer Robert Porter who had nursed the horse back to form after a long lay off owing to injury, and a modest Tudor said: "He just ran away with me and all I had to do was to just sit on him."

The AGA ladies' open race went to Chandlers Cross an eleven-year-old chestnut gelding who finished six lengths ahead of 20-1 outsider Kimora (Liz Kelly).

Chandlers Cross was ridden by his owner/trainer Jenny Price, aged 18, who was chalking-up her second win in just three rides. Lady Myfanwy (Lucy Jones) finished third and the favourite Lydstep Hills (Charlotte Evans) was fourth.

Ogmore's Nick Williams rode a double for Luke Price with Red Watch in the Members race and Coosan Lad in the Intermediate.

Red Watch had four lengths to spare over Get Off The Table (Chris West) and Coosan Lad, the odds-on favourite, scored by

15 lengths from Tachbury (Jo Buck).

The blinkered Intac, which finished third, somehow managed during the race to get his tail briefly stuck in Red Watch's bridle – surely a point-to-pointing first!

Bradley Gibbs, who rode a four-timer over the course seven days earlier, had to be satisfied with just the one winner on this occasion.

He took the Restricted Open on Oh Suzannah, a five-year-old bay mare, owned, trained and bred by Mr David Brace OBE who named her after his great, great grandmother.

In the closest finish of the day, Oh Suzannah got home by half-a-length from Wiston Dreamer.

Miss Samantha Butler's five-year-old chestnut Snap It Up, a 14-1 outsider, ridden

by Evan David, had a length to spare over An Cor (Chris West) in the Young Horse Maiden after taking the lead five fences from home.

The Eight-Year-Olds And Over Maiden went to Mr Dilwyn Tranter's Bang On Trend who, ridden by his trainer Chris West, won by a distance from Bred To Win (Rachel Leyshon) the only other finisher.

The favourite Howya Buddy (James Tudor) looked like romping home only to fall three fences from the finish.

Of the eight book-makers who attended the meeting, most of them disappeared throughout the afternoon and by the time the last race was run there were just three of them who had braved the elements.

BRIAN LEE

## Bowls club hosts Welsh elite squad

ROBERT WEALE, Wales' reigning Commonwealth singles gold medalist, heads the line-up of 24 of the top men's and ladies bowlers in Wales, as they start their specialist training for the Commonwealth Games in 2014 at Dinas Powys over the weekend of April 20/21.

The Dinas club will open its facilities throughout the weekend and all are welcome to come and watch Wales' top bowlers in action.

Looking forward to the Whitsun holiday

week, Dinas Powys once again hosts the men's open singles championship of Wales.

The tournament returns this year to its original date in the calendar and is the season's opener of singles competitions in Wales.

Entry forms for the tournament are available from your local club and from the Dinas Powys Club.

The action starts on Friday, May 24 and runs throughout the bank holiday week, with the finals on Friday, May 31; closing date for entries is Sunday, May 12.

AMD

## Local tennis club builds for future

**BARRY Tennis Club is 100 years old this year and is planning a number of one-off events to mark the occasion.**

The club is expanding its programme of regular activities and forging new links with the wider community in a bid to lay solid foundations for the next 100 years.

Growth of the junior section is an important part of these developments, and the club is building on the successes of its well-established Friday evening 'youth club' and Sunday morning mini-tennis coaching programme by offering more scheduled sessions throughout the week and strengthening links with local schools.

Barry Island Primary School is already working with the club's head coach in developing plans to run tennis courses at school (for pupils and teachers) and

an after-school tennis club, as well as becoming involved with the club's scheduled coaching sessions and mini-tennis tournaments.

In addition to the sports activities, Barry Tennis Club is committed to offering more junior social activities and taking advantage of its privileged location at the heart of Barry Island.

If you know a mini-Murray or diddy-Djokovic and would like to find out more about the club and its activities, please follow BarryTennisClub on Facebook or Twitter, or email [info@barrytennis.co.uk](mailto:info@barrytennis.co.uk).

Participation in the scheduled coaching sessions does not require membership of the club, but fees are subject to a discount for members.

PM

## Eleanor's joy at tournament win

**ELEANOR LEWIS (13) has become the first person from Cottrell Park Golf Resort to win the Glamorgan Ladies Golf Association County Championships Bronze Division, which took place at Glamorganshire Golf Club.**

After finishing in the top 8 in the qualifying round Eleanor went on to record a 5&4 quarter final victory over Isabella Lloyd from Pontardawe followed in the afternoon with a 4&3 win over Linda Edwards from Creigau in the semi final.

The next day final produced an exciting match against Megan Blunsdon from Glamorganshire Golf Club, with Eleanor taking a 4 hole lead on the 13th only to be pegged



back to a 2-hole lead on the 15th. Eleanor held her nerve and holed a five-foot putt for a par on the 16th to record a 3&2 victory.

A week earlier Eleanor also qualified for the final of the Under 15 section of the Principality Junior Welsh Open on the 2010 course at Celtic Manor by recording a net 65 at Radyr Golf Club.

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# GEM sport

## Bridgend Athletic earn win in quagmire

**AFTER** losing to third placed Newbridge at Newbridge Fields in October, the Athletic travelled to the Welfare Ground hoping to reverse the result.

This was always going to be difficult after the hosts had their best win of the season last week away to second placed Bargoed. The Bridgend side has also been in great form, despite last week's reverse to league leaders, Ebbw Vale.



Tom Morgan bursts through the defence.

On a very wet surface the visitors made a positive start despite handling difficulties for both sides. After just seven minutes, Athletic outside half Stephen Lewis was just short with a touch-line penalty, the visitors having most of the play in the first quarter.

In the first real attack from Newbridge, Bridgend wing Will Williams marked the kick ahead and passed to James Olds, who sent a relieving kick into touch on halfway.

His colleagues had come to play and were strongly taking the game to the opposition. The closest they came to scoring was when a home forward with hands in a ruck was penalised and Lewis placed the resultant penalty into touch on the 22 metre line.

Athletic set about attacking the try line, but kick and rush defence saved the day. Newbridge came back again when outside half Neil Burnett cross-kicked for his chasing wing which the latter knocked on. Still, it brought pressure on the Athletic line, the clearance kick coming from

hard working scrum half, Aled Thomas.

The Athletic looked dangerous and the team most likely to score and they did not disappoint. On 25 minutes an angled, scything run and pass by centre Mike Hathaway was taken on by co-centre Tom Morgan who scored, sliding the last few yards despite being well held; outside half Lewis added the extras.

Stung into action, back came Newbridge with a good counter attack, the visiting defence doing well to keep them out. The Athletic's Morgan Evans then countered with a strong run, supported by his forwards who were the most powerful of the two sides on the day.

Everything the home team tried came to nothing on a quagmire of a surface and against such herculean defence. This second quarter brought the game's second try following a period of huge pressure from the Athletic in the home 22.

One of a number of strong drives came from earlier try-scorer Tom Morgan who, with two defenders hanging on to him preventing his progress, managed to slip the ball to prop Rhodri Apsee who drove the final metres over the line. Again, Stephen Lewis converted.

The home team were using doubtful tactics and guilty of trying to play too much dry weather rugby, which was well countered by the visitors who were also making far less mistakes and well worth the 0-14 half-time lead.

What wind advantage there was favoured the home team in the second half and again the Athletic varied its tactics as situations arose.

A turnover by second row, Morgan Evans was taken on by Simon Mustoe, Griff Davies, Sean Williams and other forwards, who could barely be recognised by this time, who drove into home team territory.

The ball squirted forward and a scrum resulted. From the scrum, the ball was passed to the home team fly half who threw a poor pass along the ground to support players, before the ever alert Aled Thomas scooped it up, side stepped and ran for the try line, sliding through the final muddy metres to score; this time Lewis could not convert.

The Ath now reverted to 'ball up the jumper'



Michael Hathaway on the attack.  
PICTURES BY KERRY FOTHERGILL



Rod Apsee forces his way over the try line.

rugby, driving repeatedly at the home defence and completely outplaying Newbridge. One such drive had Newbridge in reverse gear for fully thirty metres, before it petered out.

Sadly, no more Athletic scores were to come, despite a couple of chances to get the bonus point try. These included a tremendous kick and rush effort from Mike Hathaway, where the ball was mis-hit, and another shortly after from Will Williams who evaded two would-be tacklers before being brought down. Conditions continued to deteriorate, though they did not stop the excitement.

Newbridge still contributed to the game with a strong forward drive before spreading the ball wide, knocking on when a score looked likely.

At the scrum, Athletic's No 8, Sean Derrick, countered with a chip over the top which he looked to have secured before the ball rolled into touch.

On the half hour, both sides made substitutions, the Gwent team bringing on Luke Crane and Dean Gibbs and the visitors making two front row changes, Huw Morris and Nathan Holman replacing Matt Muir and

captain Simon Mustoe.

Holman made an immediate impact with a try saving tackle preventing a certain score, but the other inspired substitutions were to benefit the Welfare Ground team. Two minutes after Holman's well timed tackle, the Newbridge replacement scrum half Crane touched down after a strong Newbridge drive to the line. Four minutes into injury time, the other home team substitute, Gibbs, scored, but it was all too little too late, the final score 19-10.

This had been a superb performance by Bridgend Athletic, consolidating their mid-table league position. Captain Simon Mustoe leads by example and his tackle count and pick and go availability were again noticeable.

The work by his front row colleagues and substitutes will also have pleased the club coaches, as will the work of locks Evans and Davies and the hunger of back rowers Williams, Derrick and Ben Thomas.

Centres Williams and Hathaway, and the back three of Williams, Olds and Kyle Dobbin, were also a credit to the club's teamwork ethic.

DB

## GAME OF TWO HALVES... But Pencoed win out over Celtic

**THIS** match between Maesteg Celtic and Pencoed was a game of two halves, Pencoed dominating the opening 40 minutes, then having to defend for their lives in the second half.

Pencoed opened the scoring in the first minute, a late tackle on outside half Marc Davies punished by Davies from the resultant penalty. In the early scrums Pencoed were exerting great pressure on the home eight, Andrew Shillam, hooker Ieuan Watkins and Nicky Hawkins clearly in the ascendancy.

A hurried clearance from such a scrum gave Pencoed the opportunity to score the only try of this pulsating match, full back Glen Hiscocks fielding the ball some 35 metres out before setting off on a mazy run beating several home defenders and putting his supporting left wing Aaron Songhurst over halfway out; Davies added the extras for Pencoed to lead 10-10 after 12 min-



Aaron Songhurst crosses for the only try of the game as Pencoed beat Maesteg Celtic 16-6.  
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

utes. Pencoed No8 Gareth Prentice and Watkins were creating havoc in the home ranks with their forceful direct ball carries. When asked the question Pencoed were equally determined in defence, denying Celtic on three separate occasions on their own line.

Again a high tackle gave Davies the opportunity to extend his side's lead, the outside half making no mistake, despite tricky underfoot conditions and Pencoed led 10-13 after 23 minutes.

A fine cover tackle

from back row forward Aaron Halse saved a certain home score, before Pencoed returned to the attack, more driving play from Prentice, Watkins, and second rows Chris John and Paul Macfarlane setting up a position for Davies, whose snap drop goal hit the upright.

Pencoed now had the home side under the cosh, and were unlucky to see their final pass knocked down with Songhurst certain to score.

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 29

## Bridgend chess round-up

**BRIDGEND B** lost to Caefatri 3-2 in division 4 of the East Glamorgan chess league.

On board 1 Chris Howells drew with Jonathon Kell, while on board 2 Neil Stuart drew with Mike Cram.

On board 3 Mark Jones also drew against Damon Davies, but all the action was on the boards 4 and 5 with Howard Deere outplaying a out-of-form Mike Kearn, then the upset for Bridgend on board 5 with Dom Cavalli holding the more experienced Peter Ballantyne to a draw.

For more information on Bridgend chess visit [www.bridgendchessclub.com](http://www.bridgendchessclub.com).

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# Vale Karate shine at grand finals



## Under-10s' Cup adventure over

**BARRY Bees were unable to repeat last year's heroics when they were beaten finalists in the under-10 District cup.**

Drawn in an extremely tough group, it was critical to make a winning start against a very strong Llanishen side; unfortunately they failed to get into the game in the first half and were 14-0 down at the break.

In the second half the Bees dug deep and with a try from Cian Anderson, forced themselves back into the games. Llanishen responded with another try, but the Bees were now holding their own in all areas, and Cian again forced his way over in the corner to bring the Bees back into contention.

With the clock running down and Barry pushing for another try, Llanishen intercepted a last gasp pass to make the final score 28-10.

Barry were now in a must win situation against Llandaff, who had looked extremely impressive in their opening match.

Barry with no chance to rest after the first match started very strongly and took the early initiative with a good try from Jacob Pereira.

Barry were on top for most of the first half but couldn't score the critical second try their pressure deserved; and with the last play of the half

Llandaff scored a try, from what most observers thought was a forward pass, to make the scores even at the break.

In the second half the dejected Bees ran out of steam, and couldn't hold an increasingly dominant Llandaff, who eventually run out 28-7 winners.

The final match against Llantwit Major was about pride and the Bees at last started to move the ball with conviction, and were constantly stretching the Llantwit defence.

James Chapman finished two flowing moves through the backs, and just before the break Taylor Ross-Zeal completed another excellent passing move. Llantwit dug deep in the second half and despite lots of Barry pressure only conceded one more try after a weaving run from Spencer Williams to make the final score 24-0.

It was hugely disappointing not to progress to the knockout stages, after all the hard work this season, but unfortunately the Bees couldn't replicate their normal form for long enough periods against very strong opposition.

**Squad:** Isaac McBride, Jacob Pereira, Joe Tanner, Charlie Bale, Dylan Morris, Ethan Watkins, Joseph Nationstead, Stephen Williams, Cian Anderson, Spencer Williams, Robson Mallam, Taylor Ross-Zeal, James Chapman. **JM**

## The Park Vets enjoy Dockers Cup success



**VALE MP Alun Cairns attended the Dockers Cup Final in the Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League Division 2, and presented the Park Vets team, and co-captains Brian George and Craig Rattenbury, with the trophy.**

Mr Cairns was invited to attend the cup final where the Park Vets took on Mason's Moving Group at the Jenner Park stadium. The game proved to be

a great contest between the two teams with Park Vets winning 1-0 thanks to a Jeff Preece penalty.

Mr Cairns said: "I was delighted to accept the invitation from the Vale of Glamorgan Association Football league secretary, Matthew Davies. It was great to see Park Vets and Mason's Moving Group in the Vale League Cup Final for Division 2, and a pleasure to help present the trophies and thank the referees for their essential contribution to the match."

## Sailing club's racing season begins

**SUMMER must be on its way as members of Sully Sailing Club begin their racing season on Sunday, March 31.**

With a brisk, if bitterly cold, easterly breeze, nine hardy sailors took to the water for the first two races in the spring series.

In the race one, Steve Marshall was first, Bob Lang second, and Lawrence Tulip third, the first two sailing Lasers, the third sailing a Catapult catamaran.

In race two, with a stiffening breeze, there were a few capsizes, leaving Steve

Marshall to lead the fleet home once again, followed by Lawrence Tulip, and Jerry Money, Jerry sailing a Dart 16 catamaran.

Sunday, April 7 saw further races in a cold south easterly wind. There were eight boats out with 11 sailors.

After a restart the first race the fast fleet was one by Bob Lang in a Laser, followed by Steve Marshall in a RS 700 and lastly by Andrew Evans in a Topaz cx14.

The slow fleet was won by Tim Grundy & Tony Jenkins in a GP14, followed by Nick Speller in a Topaz Uno

Race and lastly Tylo in a Topaz.

In the second race the first three were the same, except that Andrew Evans finished second and Steve Marshall finishing third. In the slow fleet first was Nick Speller followed by Tylo.

Anyone interested in joining this small friendly dinghy sailing club, please contact the membership secretary via the club website: [www.sully-sailing.org.uk](http://www.sully-sailing.org.uk).

CP

**OF the 29 clubs which have contested the Welsh Karate League this season, 20 attended the WKL Grand Finals, which took place at Penarth Leisure Centre on March 24.**

Vale Karate's huge squad, over 80 Vale Karate youngsters, have entered the league this season, and their strength in depth has seen them lead the league from the start, amassing over 100 gold medals and over two hundred silver and bronze medals over the course of the season, on their way to an unassailable 1373 points, more than 800 ahead of any other clubs' total.

At the finals, the individuals who have earned the most points in their categories over the course of the season were acclaimed champion of champions, with ten such awards coming to Vale Karate.

Bradley Christoforato then accepted the award for most successful club on behalf of chief instructor Rob Copeland.

Two of Vale Karate's young champions, Christopher Slack and Kloe Christoforato, took the trophies in both their Kata and Kumite divisions, Chris in the under-10 advanced Kata and under-10 advanced boys kumite and Kloe in the under-12 advanced kata and under-12 girls kumite.

Finnian O'Donovan was dominant in the under-8 boys kumite, winning seven of the nine tournaments this season!

Max Baker took the under-10 novice kumite after a season-long tus-

le with team-mate Jack George, with Max taking the trophy by a solitary point, overtaking Jack courtesy of a gold at the last event.

Harrison Williams was level after eight events with team-mate Josh Dwyer, with the champions trophy set to go to the winner of the final event. The closest of fights saw Harrison edge it to take the trophy home.

Emma Squire was a comfortable winner of the under-14 novice kata, with seven gold and two silver medals this season.

Leah Copeland missed the first four ladies kata events of the season due to illness and injury, but won the champions trophy with a five tournament winning streak.

She earned 14 points in Penarth, also winning the under-18 ladies kumite and earning a silver in the ladies kumite.

Vale Karate's final trophy went to Rory O'Donovan, who took the veteran Mens Kumite title ahead of team mate Mike George.

Danica Apologista and Alexandra Slack won their under-10 and under-14 kata titles on the day but had not amassed enough points over the season to win the champions trophies.

Brad Christoforato has been unbeaten in either kata or kumite all season, but virtue of missing a couple of events also missed the champions cup.

The new season gets under way in April and an exciting development sees the league open its doors next season, with the unique and groundbreaking format arousing interest from all over the UK.

RC

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# GEM SPORTS EXTRA

## Expert's masterclass for Vale Tae Kwon Do students



## Dinas Powys win torrid battle in the mud and rain

**A MATCH played in torrential rain on a heavy, muddy pitch under low cloud at the head of Rhondda Fach, saw Dinas Powys RFC continue their winning ways.**

Unbeaten since November 3, the Villagers produced a quality performance, scoring six tries in 61 minutes before they relented to the pleadings of the home committee members and called an end to a one-sided performance.

The pitch was judged playable prior to the start of play and the conditions would have been considered a great leveller, as skills with ball in hand were made much more difficult.

A powerful performance by the Dinas forwards allowed the visitors to dominate territory and possession and produce a highly satisfactory performance and result in difficult conditions.

The visitors kicked off and re-gathered the ball through the energetic chasing of flanker Ryan Shallis and defied the conditions by moving the ball sweetly from side to side amongst the three-quarters.

The pressure was intense and when the ball was lost in contact, the home side were grateful to kick the ball to clear their lines. One of these clearing kicks was gathered by fullback Nick

**DINAS POWYS  
FERNDALDE**

**34  
3**

Coles who ran the ball from deep in his own half, beating two home players before feeding Duke Durham on the right wing.

The fleet footed debutant skimmed across the surface before committing the final defender and passing inside to flanker Morgan Williams, who crossed for the opening score.

The restart, kicked low across the soggy surface, was expertly gathered by hooker Lloyd Horwood, who bullocked his way to halfway before feeding outside half Dai Lloyd, who produced a dazzling run amongst the gloom to score a stunning try.

After ten minutes, the Villagers of Dinas Powys led by ten points and even though Nick Coles struck the post with the conversion attempt, confidence oozed through the side after such a dynamic start to the game.

The game was played entirely in the Ferndale half and during this period a series of apparent tries were disallowed for various reasons.

James Walters took a quick tap penalty and crashed over, but the referee was explaining the reason for the penalty to the offender.

A pushover try was not awarded for a knock-on in the act of scoring; another was not given as

the final pass from John Evans to co-centre Mark Goode was forward.

The final ignominy was when a huge Dinas scrum effort saw the home side driven back at speed and penalised, as indomitable loose head prop Tom Paterson was adjudged to be pushing upwards.

Paterson, veteran of darker days in the club's history, was revelling in the conditions, not only at the scrum, but also catching high balls and driving on in the difficult conditions.

The frustration ended after a further quarter of an hour when a further powerful scrum allowed number 8 Gareth Williams to pick up at the base and dummy to scrum half Matthew Brown before splashing over for the Villagers' third try.

The restart allowed the home side a rare incursion into the Villagers' half and allowed them to gain a penalty, which they converted for their only score of the contest.

The bonus point-gaining try was soon scored. Following a powerful scrum that allowed the Dinas pack to win the ball against the head, an intricate period of passing involving forwards and backs allowed Morgan Williams to score his second try of the afternoon.

The tension amongst the coaching staff and players eased following the bonus point and it was a happy group that saw the arrival of half time with the score at 3-20.

The second half continued in similar mode as the Villagers pressed home their dominance, playing attractive rugby in the difficult conditions.

The players on both sides were difficult to differentiate between as their kit was covered in mud and the inevitable rolling mauls resembled moving earth mounds.

The fifth try was scored as second row Owen Stark crashed over, standing amongst the backs, and allowing Coles to kick his first conversion allowing the score to make the score 3-27.

The sixth Dinas try was scored by Number 8 Williams following a further powerful scrum and with Coles adding the conversion and the score standing at 3-34, the match official decided that the contest was at an end, as conditions made further play impossible.

A pleasing result following a fine controlled performance that will (hopefully) provide the platform to allow the Villagers to test themselves against unbeaten league leaders Glyncoch on the Common at 2.30pm on April 20.

**HYWEL JONES**

### RECENTLY, students from JSTKD and Inner Spirit Tae Kwon Do attended a Korean kicking seminar performed by Master Jae Jeong.

Master Jae, who now resides in Australia, was brought to the UK by Mr Joseph Schembri, former world champion and head instructor for TKD Schools in the area.

Master Jae has a colourful background in Tae Kwon Do and Thai boxing. He trained in the Korean University system and competed at the Korean national level for many years. He went on to study Thai boxing. He now teaches in his own gym in Perth, Australia. He is also a practising

Buddhist, and has a firm belief in the meditation of peace within the martial art.

At the seminar, Master Jae taught all the basic kicks of Tae Kwon Do and performed advanced kicking drills for the students. The feedback was very positive from both students and spectators alike.

There were more than 50 students attending from Barry, Rhosce, Dinas Powys, St Athan and Llantwit Major. Also, guest instructors Mr Neil Gimbel and Mr Brian Taylor of Cowbridge and Cardiff were in attendance.

For more information, contact Mr Schembri on 0771234500 or visit [www.jstkd.co.uk](http://www.jstkd.co.uk).

## UNDER-12S PUT ON A THRILLER IN CUP FINAL



**Barry Athletic**

### THIS season's Vale of Glamorgan Football League under-12s cup final saw Barry Athletic FC take on Barry Town FC at Jenner Park.

The Athletic started the stronger of the two teams and soon found themselves 1-0 up. Some good work from the striking partnership of Lawrence Walpole and Will Drew resulted in the ball falling nicely for the captain Connor Bright, who tucked the ball away.

Five minutes later, they doubled their advantage when Jack Such finished sweetly from outside of the box after an exchange of passes from Dafydd Jones and Sam Hopkins in the Athletic midfield.

Up until this point, Barry Town were kept at bay by the sterling defence of Sam Montgomery, Dan Barnett, Joe Allwood and Jack Such.

However, Barry Town, who had had a great result against Cogan in

the semi-final, got themselves back into the game when they placed a well taken corner into the Athletic penalty box. A scramble ensued and the Town attackers forced the ball into the net to make it 2-1.

Both teams took a well-earned rest at half-time, after covering every blade of grass on the large pitch.

When the game restarted, the hard-working Athletic midfield continued to shift the ball quickly and soon they were 3-1 up.

Drew played in Joshua Peets who turned and laid the ball off for Jordan Jones, who ran 20 yards with the ball and coolly finished into the bottom corner of the Town net.

Just five minutes later though, Barry Town were back in the game; the Town forwards put the Athletic defence under pressure, which resulted in the striker being bundled over in the box and a penalty was awarded.

The penalty was struck with power and the Athletic goalkeeper Ryan Aherne was unlucky not to get a stronger hand on the ball.

On came Matthew Mayor, Ewan Griffith and Dillon Lee to offer fresh legs for the blue and blacks, and with the clock ticking, the Athletic consolidated and managed to see off the determined Town side.

The game was played in a terrific spirit, with both teams being a credit to their coaches. The atmosphere generated by both sets of supporters always encouraged the teams and the match was well officiated by Chris Bowsher and the three young assistant referees, who were gaining much valued experience.

Well done to the Athletic for lifting the Brian Risborough Memorial Trophy in their first season of competitive football!

**DW**

# Joy as the Bombettes make final!

**WHEN BARRY BOMBETTES welcomed Croesyceiliog for their semi final make or break showdown, the whole team knew this would be our toughest game of the season, and so it turned out to be.**

The game was played on a sodden pitch which soon descended into near mudbath conditions, with no team asking or giving any quarter in a brutal battle.

Barry used their home advantage to good use playing down the slope in the first half. The home coaching staff had done their homework well, identifying the Croesy No 10 as pivotal to the away team's play.

This was demonstrated early on with penetrative kicking behind the Barry backs. A revelation this season is the uncovering of our replacement full back O'Neill; she collected the ball, tore back into the chasing defenders, always making ground for her team, and several crunching tackles on the No 10 later meant her having to move to the comfort of the wing, negating their kicking game.

Every single home player played their A game in this crucial game. The defensive qualities of this magnificent team were demonstrated when Croesy

enjoyed their best spell of the game.

The away side pounded the Barry 22 and line, met with staunch stalwart Bombette tackling. With the try line inches away Barry turned the ball over, for Jones to punt a lovely clearing kick down the pitch.

This was the closest the away side came by half time, the score 0-0.

The second half started with more of the same from the home side. The Bombettes adapted to the conditions far better than Croesy. Utilising the power of their forwards the pick and drive ball, forcing the Croesy team into more and more infringements.

Richards took over touch kicking duties and did admirably. Bannister controlled her forwards and backs superbly and, when needed, took the game to Croesy herself, making several darting bursts.

Croesy were becoming increasingly desperate and resorted to 'other means' with one player receiving a yellow card for a loose boot. This invigorated the Bombettes who then exerted more pressure, with the scrum excellent the whole game.

Going into the last quarter with the game tied, the home forwards with centre Jones her normal tigerish self and ninth forward, powered into the away 22. Several draining scrums later for the away pack, saw Cole pick up from

the base and power over.

This sparked amazing scenes on the sidelines from the healthy home support. Richards coolly slotted over the extra points to make it Barry 7, Croesy 0. 'Super subs' were used, with Phillips replacing Horne and Kronida coming on for wing Potter.

Croesy briefly rallied but the home team were soon back in the opposing half. With minutes ticking down, a Croesy forward was red carded for losing her head and more foul play. Richards uncharacteristically missed the kick in dreadful kicking conditions.

In the final minutes, Barry controlled the ball beautifully through their forwards and the final whistle went to jubilant celebratory scenes.

A very tight game was won, but hats off to the defence shown by all and the changed back line with Britton on the wing and Beare at No 13 playing superbly. Every single player showed their true mettle, no-one took a backward step or showed weakness.

**Team:** O'Neill, Potter, Beare, K Jones (c), Britton, Rees, Bannister, Cole, Yapp, Williams, Garner-Joel, Boffy, Cahill, Richards, Horne. **Super subs:** Phillips, Kronida, B Jones, Kath Jones, Sam Cushen and A Wilson.

Barry woman of the match was awarded to Bannister, and Croesyceiliog chose Kim Jones.

The management would like to congratulate the whole team for a totally committed dogged professional performance and a well deserved semi-final victory. Many thanks to the intrepid supporters who came to watch the ladies, secure their win in damp conditions and thanks as ever to Rachel Baron for the lovely food.

The Bombettes played as a team and the author, on behalf of the coaching staff, is very proud to be part of this amazing squad and cup run.

The final takes place on Sunday, April 28 at Llandovery RFC (kick off 2pm) against Gwernhyfed. We will be running a supporters' coach, details to be posted.

AM

## Harriers enjoy presentation night success



**THERE was a brilliant turnout for the Barry and Vale Harriers' presentation night held at Barry RFC; a big thank you for those of you that attended and supported the club.**

The following awards went out to these athletes: Faye Gibbon, Antonio Peacock.

In the under-15s, Mariella Watt, Mason Grady and Tillie Carter all picked up awards.

Endeavour awards went to Emily Ross Grace Corne, Amy Blake, while Harry Carter celebrated winning the under-13 gold as Welsh high jump champion, with Tillie Carter the under-17 silver Welsh medal for 3k walk.

The athletes work very hard training 12 months of the year throughout all sorts of weather and temperatures. A special thank you goes out to all the coaches Danny Carter,



Mathew Taylor, Andrew Joy, Ellie Wells, Danille Close, Dawn Howells, Ieuan Bennett, David Peacock, and Andy Wiggins, who work tirelessly with the children and young adults.

However, without one certain person this would not be possible, so on behalf of everyone at the club, thank you Fred Malkin for guiding all concerned with the Harriers.

**LEE SAUNDERS**

## Local club to hold skittles tournament

**THE Rhoose & District Social Club have officially announced that it is set to play host to a 6-a-side skittles tournament, which will last over the summer period.**

The tournament will consist of a group stage, leading to a straight knockout until the tournament has a winning team.

Club secretary, Terry Anthony, has paid tribute to the club's brewery who has generously sponsored the tournament by donating a grand prize of £1,000 and a trophy, which will

be named the Carlsberg Cup.

The tournament will look to begin towards the end of May so there is plenty of time to register a team. There is an entry fee of £2 per player and up to 10 players can be registered in a team. There are no limitations (male, female, member, non-member) so anyone can enter.

The club invites anyone interested to join in with the fun and good luck to everyone that takes part. If anyone wishes to make an enquiry about registering a team, please contact the club on 01446 710260.

AB

## WESTEND 2 NETBALL TEAM END ON A HIGH



**The Westend 2 Team**

**WESTEND 2 netball team finish the league on a high. The girls got off to a slow start with injured players and facing some strong competition but settled into the last few games, working well as a team and playing some amazing netball.**

Westend took on Amersham and broke away quite quickly with some fantastic goals being scored by Natalie

Bradfield, Becky Haysom and Nina Jones. Siobhan Griffiths, Claire Denton, Lindsay Miller and Hayley Greening in defence were strong with some amazing interceptions taking the ball quickly back through the court using centre court players Abi Ladner and Hannah Keeble – the final score ending Westend 26, Amersham 16.

The girls then took on Heath E, again starting well, with quick centre court play from Chantelle and Abi backed up by Hannah

and Hayley; this was by far Westend's best game with both attacking and defending being faultless.

The girls stormed home, the game ending Westend 32, Heath 10.

A massive well done to the team and good luck for next season.

**Team:** Siobhan Griffiths, Claire Denton, Nina Jones, Hayley Greening, Abi Ladner (captain) Hannah Keeble, Chantelle Meah, Natalie Bradfield, Lindsay Miller, Emma Hughes, Becky Haysom.

## TUDOR WINS CLASSIC

**JAMES TUDOR, assistant trainer to Llancarfan's Evan Williams, riding Mrs Jodie Pearn's nine-year-old Floridahall, landed the John Lovell Memorial Men's Open Race – which is the £1,000 South Wales Area Classic race – at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen, where persistent rain throughout the afternoon changed the going from good to soft to heavy, by the time the last race had been run.**

Florida Hall soon had his six rivals trailing in his wake and he romped home a distance ahead of Young Albert (Kris Hammer) with last year's winner Midnight Diamond (Matthew Barber) a further distance away in third place.

The favourite My Fella was pulled up three fences from the finish.

The AGA ladies' open race went to Chandlers Cross, an eleven-year-old chestnut gelding, who finished six lengths ahead of 20-1 outsider Kimora (Liz Kelly).

Chandlers Cross was ridden by his owner/trainer Jenny Price, aged 18, who was chalking-up her second win in just three rides. Lady Myfanwy (Lucy Jones) finished third and the favourite Lydstep Hills (Charlotte Evans) was fourth.

Ogmore's Nick Williams rode a double for Luke Price with Red

Watch in the Members race and Coosan Lad in the Intermediate.

Red Watch had four lengths to spare over Get Off The Table (Chris West) and Coosan Lad, the odds-on favourite, scored by 15 lengths from Tachbury (Jo Buck).

Bradley Gibbs, who rode a four-timer over the course seven days earlier, had to be satisfied with just the one winner on this occasion.

He took the Restricted Open on Oh Suzannah, a five-year-old bay mare, owned, trained and bred by Mr David Brace OBE, who named her after his great, great grandmother.

In the closest finish of the day, Oh Suzannah got home by half-a-length from Wiston Dreamer.

Miss Samantha Butler's five-year-old chestnut Snap It Up, a 14-1 outsider, ridden by Evan David, had a length to spare over An Cor (Chris West) in the Young Horse Maiden after taking the lead five fences from home.

The Eight-Year-Olds And Over Maiden went to Mr Dilwyn Tranter's Bang On Trend who, ridden by his trainer Chris West, won by a distance from Bred To Win (Rachel Leyshon) the only other finisher. The favourite Howya Buddy (James Tudor) looked like romping home only to fall three fences from the finish.

**BRIAN LEE**

## Local girls get national caps

**FOUR girls from Dinas Powys, Penarth and Barry have been selected to play basketball for Wales.**

Rosie Peterson (aged 14) from Dinas Powys and Tizzie Birch Hurst (15) from Penarth, both attend Stanwell High School.

Carys Allen from Penarth (aged 14) attends St Cyres and Kelsey Penikett (15) attends Sir Richard Gwyn. They all play for the Huskies Basketball team in Holm View, Barry and for their schools, and are going to Gibraltar in July to represent Wales in the FIBA European championships – are playing teams from all over Europe.

Two teams are representing Wales under-18s and under-16s girls and 20 players out of over 40 girls who play basketball for Wales are going.

It is difficult to encourage girls of this

age group to do exercise so to have these girls who are so committed is brilliant. They train four times a week and are an inspiration for other teenage girls; these girls can carry on representing their country as adults and some may eventually represent Great Britain.

Unfortunately, girls basketball is not well funded in this country and they rely on sponsorship, they are looking for a company to sponsor their kit. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the Welsh Basketball teams, please get in touch.

Barry Huskies are running free girls-only training sessions for six weeks at Ysgol Pen y Garth, Penarth, on Mondays 4.30pm to 6pm, thanks to a Sported grant. This is a great opportunity for teenage girls to get fit and have fun; all girls are welcome, aged 12 to 16.

**CHARLOTTE DAVEY**

## SEAVIEW LADS' AWFUL RESULTS

**THE past few months have been awful as far as results are concerned but members have continued to enjoy the camaraderie and social aspects of being a Seaview Lad.**

In the past month we have enjoyed two mystery trips - one intended, one with the compliments of a bus pass.

On our trip to Chesil we sought plaice but only landed small fish with a solitary dog helping a winning weight. Breakfast was good, we took in some lovely country roads and enjoyed a five hour journey; thankfully the return was quicker!

Twenty seven anglers joined the annual mystery tour and ended

up fishing on Clevedon Pier - no fish were landed but it was a good day and enjoyed by all. Well done to everyone that is still making the effort to fish comps- things can only get better!

**RESULTS:**

April 12: 1st Gethin Clarke 5oz pout; March 23: 1st M Langford 11b 6oz, 2nd S Doble 11b 3oz, 2nd J Bray 11b 3oz, 4th S Davies 11b 1oz, 5th A Harris 01b 6 oz, 6th P Coles 01b 5oz, 6th K Salah 01b 5oz, 7th G Morgam 01b 4oz, 8th M Kerslake 01b 2oz.

March 3: 1st M Kerslake 11b 4oz, 2nd A Harris 01b 4oz, 3rd P Coles 01b 6oz, 4th M Langford 01b 4oz, 5th G Clarke 01b 7oz.

March 1: 1st P Coles 41b 7oz, 2nd T McGarrigle 11b 1oz, 3rd G Warner 01b 12oz, 4th M Kerslake 01b 4oz.

**JC**